

prematurely." **CHINA** **CHAINED** **ANTI-GOVERNMENT** **SL**

Handwritten note: JPL, in 1990

Cornerstone laid for bee-keeping project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday visited Karak Governorate where she laid the cornerstone for the bee-keeping and honey production scheme implemented by the Queen Al Hussein Foundation (QAHF).

The project is being carried out in cooperation with the Production and Vocational Training Cooperative (VTC) for rural women in Mu'ab in the Karak Governorate, which is affiliated to the Jordan Cooperative Organisation.

The Women and Development Programme, with funding from the United Nations Population Fund, provides the technical and managerial expertise and the training required for setting up 50 bee hives of Australian bees.

The project's yearly production ranges from 400-700 kilograms of natural pure honey which is marketed in the local market. Yet, Jordan's honey production does not exceed 25 per cent of its honey consumption, therefore, the expansion of this project is incorporated in the cooperative's future plan.

In order to benefit from this project as a model to be implemented on the national level, the Women and Development Programme will incorporate it in its plan for the following phase (1991-1995).

Accompanying Queen Noor on the trip, was the minister of agriculture, Suleiman Arabiyat. The minister pointed to the importance of bee-keeping and honey production in Jordan, as a vital economic sector, since Jordan has more potential to produce its need of honey, estimated at 350 tons annually.

He said that bee-keeping is one of the small income-generating projects that can accommodate many rural labourers and that those working in this field have organised themselves in the beekeepers society, which includes university professors and agricultural engineers.

According to the minister, this field grants a unique role to women. Cooperative societies have organised rural women in cooperatives in Mu'ab in Karak and it is expected that this pioneer project will be implemented elsewhere in the Kingdom.

"We hope that this successful model will be implemented in other parts of the country and the ministry is willing to coordinate with NHP and give assistance through its technical staff to establish future projects," the minister said.

During the visit, Queen Noor also visited the National Centre for Agricultural Research in Al Rabba, where she met with the staff and was briefed on the centre's objectives related to conducting applied research in the fields of grains, fruit trees and fodder.

This centre, which employs 250 agricultural engineers, is one of five leading centres in Jordan within the national project of agricultural research and transfer of technology.

Parents of deaf demand a say

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of parents of deaf children gathered at the Ministry of Social Development Wednesday to demand that they have a say in the drafting of a law for the care of the disabled in Jordan.

The demands were made at the beginning of discussions by a ministerial committee for working to amend a 1989 law on the handicapped.

The parents presented a petition to the ministry demanding that an amendment be added to the law and that they should be allowed to take part in the committee's meetings.

"They urged the ministry to formulate an educational strategy for handicapped children and demanded that deaf people and parents of deaf children should be represented in the Higher Council for the Welfare of the Handicapped in Jordan."

The parents called for the creation of a special society for the care of the disabled in the Kingdom, which would be entrusted with tackling the problems of the handicapped.

Earlier this month, parents of deaf children took part in a panel discussion organised by the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) and the National Speech and Hearing Centre to discuss ways to help meet the needs of deaf children. The panel, which also included deaf adults, professionals, teachers and government officials, was aimed at organising parents of deaf children in a society.

Work starts on third phase of Amman-Dead Sea highway

AMMAN (J.T.) — Work started Wednesday on the construction of the third phase of the Amman-Naour-Dead Sea Highway which is partly financed by the Jordanian government and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

A ground breaking ceremony marking the start of the work was held at the construction site and attended by Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh.

U.S. Ambassador Roscoe Sudarth, USAID Director Lewis Reade and other officials attended the ceremony.

This phase is 7.5 kilometres long and is the last part of the 41-kilometre long highway, linking Amman, Naour and the Dead Sea. The highway is financed by a grant from USAID totalling JD 16.75 million out of an overall cost of JD 20 million.

Work on the second part of the highway, which began in October 1989, was undertaken by two local construction firms.

The construction upgrades the original Amman-Dead Sea road to a four-lane highway which avoids areas of recurrent landslides on the existing road particularly near the village of Adhisiyah.

The highway will eliminate dangerous curves along the 1,400 metre drop from the highlands and will accommodate heavy traffic which has been a problem especially in the winter.

The new highway shortens travel time and provides a safer route for trucks delivering agricultural produce to the local market from the Jordan Valley.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al Shams, Mohammed Asad and Hani Khazneh at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "La revolution: 200 ans apres" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Ottoman textiles at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Art exhibition by Mohammad Al Ameri at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Huda Qasem in the Petra Bank Hall.

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Al Urdun Al Jadid comes to Amman, hopes to go places

By Sahar Qara'een
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Tens of publications, previously labelled as taboos, are increasingly finding their way to Jordanian newsstands in a reflection of the liberalisation process underway in the Kingdom. Most of them are highly politicised, some of them economic and yet others cannot be taken seriously.

One of the latest publications to appear in Amman in the political category is the Cyprus-based Al Urdun Al Jadid (The New Jordan).

Hani Hourani, chief editor of the Arabic monthly, described it as a political, intellectual and cultural publication. "It deals with the most important issues in Jordan such as the economic crisis, educational problems and policies, the parliamentary life in Jordan, the professional associations' movement, agriculture and other hot subjects," according to Hourani.

"The New Jordan" was first published in July 1984. Hourani, who had headed the monthly ever since it started publishing, asserts that the issues being handled by the magazine are not dealt with from a "narrow point of view that reflects any party policy."

"It has never been a forum for propaganda for any party or political power," adds Hourani, an activist of the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, which, though illegal and formally unrecognised, has been coming to the fore of Jordanian political life since late last year when the Kingdom held its first parliamentary elections in 22 years.

"The magazine is a general national, progressive and democratic forum which aims at meeting the needs of all parties and sectors concerned with national issues," Hourani told the Jordan Times Wednesday. "We are trying to be a new political school that advocates a position not only for the sake of criticising — which is considered an opposition task — or for registering stands — which is a right of the opposition — but also to come up with complementary solutions and points of view which will enable us to study any given issue and provide comprehensive solutions," according to Hourani.

Hourani expressed hope that the magazine would be licensed for publication in Jordan as a Jordanian magazine as soon as possible. He said that he has already applied to the Ministry of Information for licence. "Our main readership is in Jordan, and publishing it

from Jordan will also further justify its name," Hourani told the Jordan Times.

Senior officials have said that no politically-oriented magazines would be licensed until after the status of political parties is made clear through the proposed national charter which is under study by a general commission.

Al Urdun Al Jadid was a quarterly and starting with this month it will come out as a monthly. According to Hourani, this change was warranted by the new political phase of democratic changes in the Kingdom and the developments in the economic and social life of Jordanians over the past year.

Hourani described the lifting of the ban on the magazine by the Jordanian authorities as "a return to the normal state of affairs" as the magazine was never officially allowed into the country before. However, many clandestine copies were found in Amman, and, according to Hourani, "every copy was copied in various forms and shapes and exchanged among people."

The subscription list of the magazine now includes various political groups, professionals, universities, research centres and official organisations in addition to bookshops abroad, Hourani said.

Meeting tackles unemployment

By Nur Sadi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In an effort to contain the issue of unemployment in Jordan, specialists from international organisations and representatives from Arab countries met in a three-day symposium entitled "Employment policy in Arab countries," hoping the conference would culminate in producing high quality analysis of employment policies and labour markets within the Arab countries. The main focus of the conference was targeted towards key policy and decisionmakers intending to involve them in debates on how to resolve the unemployment problem.

According to Ahmad Qasem Al Hamad, director of the Economic Research Center at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the background to the current state of unemployment is a "continued drift of labour out of agriculture with a strong urbanisation trend."

One of the main issues in unemployment is the issue of education and training systems. "The young population includes a large number of people with unrealistic employment expectations due to a deficiency in the education system and employment schemes," said Hamad.

The unemployment issue has derived from a period of recession in the Middle Eastern countries. "In broad terms all countries have been hit by adverse movements in terms of trade, and the general trading environment. This has re-

sulted in unemployment, especially in the young educated graduates and women. This, coupled with a slow-down in economic activity in other sectors, has made the issue of unemployment important, which is why we have concentrated on employment policy," said Guy De Lusignan, deputy director of the Economic Development Institute (EDI), a division of the World Bank.

According to Jawad Anani, a Jordanian economic consultant, the labour market stands at 25 per cent of the population. A survey conducted by Anani shows that 64 per cent of employees in 450 industries have a high school degree or less and out of these industries the "utilised capacity is 50 per cent. This stems from low skills on the part of the employees."

Hibba Handousi, a representative from Egypt, described unemployment as having two features. The first and the largest is due to the quality of formal education in youth. The second is (that of) unskilled workers or skilled due to lot of experience. "All these people seek production work rather than desk work," said Handousi.

By advertising various types of work to create awareness and pushing the youth towards vocational training rather than traditional educational methods, a change in attitude should be evident.

Although Jordan has been flexible in terms of restructuring the education and training system in order to meet local and foreign demands, it has nevertheless been unable to solve unemployment en-

tirely, said Dr. Mohammad Amerah, chief of the Economic and Social Studies division at the RSS. "It has become a social issue now with graduates finding it degrading to enrol themselves in mental work when they have a respected degree," Amerah said.

According to many specialists, even though it is degrading for the graduates, they are partly to blame because of this mentality.

There are many vacancies in the manual sector while sectors employing lawyers, doctors and engineers are saturated.

"This can only be overcome through awareness and time that would change this mentality by education and training systems," Amerah pointed out.

Lusignan from the World Bank agreed that this mentality stems from the education system and added that it is not an issue characteristic of the Middle East. "In England graduates are also reluctant to do menial work even when there is high unemployment. When choices are made on the allocation of resources in the education system and you structure the development of skills you are also structuring the development of people's aspirations or ideas about what they want to be," Lusignan said.

Many specialists agree that unemployment is a phenomenon adversely gnawing away at the national economies and hindering social development. Decision-makers at the symposium acknowledging this issue have outlined effective measures designed to implement economic adjustments.

Senate passes military service law amendment

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Wednesday approved a draft law on compulsory national service referred to it by the Lower House which had approved it on June 16.

The endorsement followed a lengthy debate by the House's legal committee which was convened immediately after the regular session to review the draft, acting upon a call by Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

Addressing the full Senate session, which was chaired by Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Badran said the draft law on conscription should be given priority over other matters to give the chance to those required to do the national service and have been away from Jordan for a long time to return to the country during the 'Eid Al Adha feast next week.

Under the law, Jordanian expatriates and their sons will be exempted from doing military

service in exchange for a payment of an amount to be fixed by the government.

Badran had told the Lower House of Parliament meeting on June 16 that about 40,000 Jordanians could benefit from the law.

Although no Cabinet decision has been announced about the amount to be paid for exemption from military service, informed sources said it could be \$10,000.

According to the prime minister, the government intends to scrap regulations allowing expatriates the chance to postpone military service until they are 37 years of age, provided they are working or studying abroad, once the new law comes into force.

Acting on recommendation from the legal committee the Upper House also approved an amendment to a law on Sharia courts and another amendment on the formation of these courts, referred to the House by the Lower House of Parliament.

The Upper House also decided

to send a cable of condolences to the government and people of Iran on the death of tens of thousands of people in the recent earthquakes. House members observed a minute of silence in mourning over the dead and recited verses of the Holy Koran.

The House decided to send a cable of appreciation to Arab countries which, this year, provided financial assistance to Jordan in implementation of last month's Baghdad summit meeting.

At the outset of the meeting a Royal decree was read out calling for the House's current session to be convened to review 31 draft laws and to discuss other subjects which included: the Jewish immigration to Palestine, the government's economic policies, especially pricing and unemployment, the government's informational and educational policies and the 1987-1988 audit bureau report.

Police nab mosaic thieves

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Police have arrested three people trying to sell 10 mosaic panels in Amman and investigation is underway, according to Department of Antiquities Director-General Ghazi Bisheh.

Dr. Bisheh told the Jordan Times that the 10 panels have been retrieved. Now the department is trying to find out the archaeological site from where the mosaic panels were stolen.

The police were tipped off about a three-member gang. The police have been following their movements over the past two days, according to Bisheh. He said that the three men were claiming that the panels were fake, but examination conducted by department teams proved them to be original.

"The mosaics had been taken from a large mosaic floor and cut up into pieces and placed inside

frames," Bisheh said. He said that parts of the panels were found to be broken and in some areas repaired, but otherwise the mosaics have not been damaged and will be restored to their original site.

Public Security Department (PSD) called the officials at the Department of Antiquities and told them about the arrest and the seizure of the panels, Bisheh said. Dr. Bisheh stressed however that the mosaics were not taken from Qasr Al Hallabat where a mosaic floor was stolen by thieves last April.

The stolen mosaic floor from the desert castle of Qasr Al Hallabat has been returned to the site and the three men involved in the theft were arrested. The floor of 30 square metres of mosaic represented the "Tree of Life" and the theft was made during a rain-storm.

The floor, around 1,200 years old, shows a variety of animal, human, floral and geometric motifs dating back to the

Umayyad era in the first half of the eighth century A.D.

The new theft was the second of its kind to be announced in Jordan.

Dr. Bisheh expressed hope that the police will complete investigations into the case in the coming two days before further information about the theft can be made available.

After the mosaic floor of Qasr Al Hallabat was stolen in April, the Department of Antiquities should have placed guards at all the 5,000 archaeological sites found in the Kingdom; the department has been enlisting the assistance of local people to help protect and guard the antiquities since posting guards at the sites was impossible, Bisheh said.

He also said that some citizens have been in the practice of conducting illegal excavations at burial places taking out antiquities for purely commercial purposes and the department was taking strict measures to end this practice.

Jordan, Soviet Union to boost cultural links

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the Soviet Union Wednesday signed an executive programme for the implementation of a bilateral agreement in cultural fields designed to promote ties of friendship between the two countries.

Under the terms of the agreement the Soviet Union will offer scholarships for Jordanian students to acquire higher education at Soviet universities and will give additional training to Jordanian graduates from Soviet colleges

and universities. The Soviet Union will continue to send teachers to teach Russian at Yarmouk University as well as books and other essential teaching aids.

In return, Jordan will offer Soviet students courses in Arabic language and Arabic literature, as well as Jordanian history and culture.

Both sides pledged to implement earlier agreements signed between universities from the two countries and will continue the

process of exchanging visits by folk troupes and cooperating in matters related to archaeology, radio and television and sports.

The agreement also provides for promoting cooperation in health and humanitarian fields between the Jordan National Red Crescent Society and its Soviet counterpart.

The programme document was signed by Soviet ambassador to Jordan Yuri Garadinov and Ministry of Planning's Secretary General Safwan Touqan.

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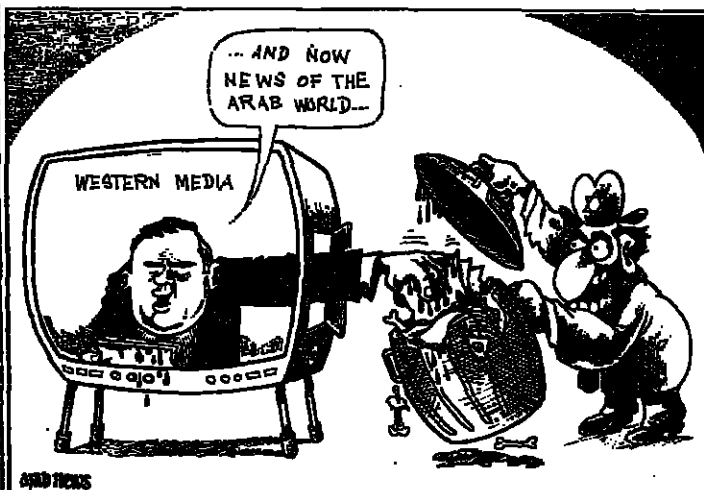
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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
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A message from Mandela

NELSON Mandela took the U.S. with a storm everywhere he went on his tour of the country during the last few days. After masterfully brushing aside attempts to undermine his message to the American people by underscoring Arab support for his cause, notably from the PLO and Libya, the South African black leader went on to praise Arab help and honourably gave it its dues in supporting the struggle of the South African blacks for liberty and self-determination. Moreover, Mandela emphasised that his people were not about to lay down their arms unless and until the South African government removes all lingering obstacles in the path of genuine dialogue and objective negotiations. By sticking to his guns and maintaining his principled positions even in his encounter with U.S. President George Bush, Mandela proved once again that he is a formidable leader and a true nationalist. No wonder the South African black leader was treated like a head of state everywhere he went in North America and elsewhere on his worldwide itinerary over the last few weeks. What is even more important, Mandela was treated with respect and dignity. A man of his words, echoed all around him as the mass media searched for apt words to depict the black leader through such determination and unwavering conviction, the South African black people have been able to reach the point of no return in their struggle for freedom and self-determination. There is obviously a message in all of this for the Arab peoples, especially the Palestinians.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily on Wednesday echoed His Majesty King Hussein's words at a graduation ceremony of a new batch of military officers from Muta University that Jordan will not be an easy prey for an aggressor. The paper said that ever since the creation of Jordan, its leadership and people have been confronting challenges and repelling aggression, and waging a heroic struggle against injustice. With the graduation of military officers from Muta University, Jordan has now boosted its armed forces and underlined its determination to defend the Arab homeland with honour, and to shoulder responsibility and safeguard the Arab Order as King Hussein said, the paper continued. King Hussein was keen on pointing out that Jordan will uphold its national commitment and has no alternative but to offer more sacrifices in the heroic struggle to defend the nation, the paper said. The graduates who are joining the armed forces ranks, it added, are the sons of Khaled Ibn Al Walid, Jaafar Al Tayyar and other Muslim leaders who sacrificed their souls at the outset of the Islamic era and they are brave men on whom Jordan is counting for its defence.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday describes the formation of the National Bloc, grouping 26 Parliament members as a great step forward and one that could prompt other elements of the so-called silent majority to make moves to create similar blocs in the future. Fahed Al Faneek says. The National Bloc's emergence is of significance since it is the biggest in Parliament, exceeding in number that of the Muslim Brotherhood and paving the ground for the creation of a strong government in Jordan without leaning on the extreme right or left for support. Referring to the leader of the bloc, Abdullah Nsour, and his statement at the press conference, the writer expresses the view that Nsour's criticism of the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran was meant to urge it to achieve further accomplishments especially in the economic fields. Faneek, however, notes that the government is bound to implement the economic restructuring programme agreed on with the International Monetary Fund, and therefore cannot deviate from that course in its economic policies.

Al Dastour daily repeated King Hussein's words at the Muta University graduation ceremony in which he expressed the Kingdom's determination to shoulder its national responsibility regardless of the challenges. The King's words displayed his confidence in his people and armed forces, and reiterated that Jordan had always served as the land of heroic struggle and glory, and will remain so undaunted by the hardships and the new challenges, the paper noted. It said that the more trained men join the ranks of the armed forces, the more confidence will be established in the hearts of the Jordanian and Arab people, because these men are counted on to bolster the nation's defence and enhance the meaning of sovereignty and independence.

'Water will determine the issue of war or peace in the Middle East'

By Norma S. Holmes

WASHINGTON — The Middle East is in urgent need of multi-lateral agreements on water sharing and water rights, three American scholars told the U.S. House Foreign Affairs panel June 26. "The threat of a water crisis in the Jordan River basin has been growing more serious for some time," University of Pennsylvania Professor Thomas Naff told the Subcommittee on Europe and Middle East. If the crisis is not eased, he added, "it will result in a significant rise in the probability of an outbreak of warfare between Jordan and Israel, which would almost certainly involve other Arab states."

Naff said that Jordan and Israel, the basin's principal users, "have been consuming about 115 per cent of their usable water stocks," and no known water technologies now or in the foreseeable future have the capacity to generate new usable water in quantities needed at an affordable cost. At present, owing to serious shortages, Naff said Israel is conducting a large-scale water trucking operation from the Litani River, which lies entirely within sovereign Lebanese territory. The absence of planned use, he said, can only lead to heightened competition among users within each country for decreasing amounts of water and "will probably result in destabilising domestic strife soon."

Naff was one of three experts who discussed "Water Issues in the 1990's" before the subcommittee. The panel also heard from Professor John Waterbury of the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University and Professor John Kolars of the Department of Geography at the University of Michigan.

In his assessment, Naff said that "clearly the best solution to hydrological problems of the

pletely dependent upon it. He said that without political stability in the region, little progress toward negotiated understandings or basin-wide coordination can occur.

In assessing the prospects for peace in the region, Kolars warned that Arabic-speaking people "are on the verge of a crisis, the dimension of which will make all others that have gone before appear simple." He pointed out that two-thirds of the

"The Israeli population is using about 85 per cent of all water available in the Israeli occupied West Bank. There are also restrictions on water use by Palestinians and they cannot farm after 4 p.m., nor can they dig a new well or repair a well that is near an Israeli well."

Jordan basin region would be the creation of basin-wide authority with enough independence, power, funding and expertise to determine and regulate water usage" among users.

Waterbury, in his testimony, noted that the problems of the Nile basin is not as acute, since the nine sovereign states laying claim to some portion of the river's waters, only two — Egypt and Sudan — are almost com-

Arab World (excluding the Maghreb) depend upon river water which flows to them from non-Arabic-speaking countries. Another 24 per cent, he added, has no perennial surface streams whatever. Said Kolars, "Peace in Israeli-Jordan-Palestine may in the final analysis depend upon the fair sharing of available waters."

Naff, in his assessment of the prospects for peace or conflict,

said that while it might eventually be possible to overcome Israel's security arguments for retention of the territories, "the hydrological arguments will persist unless the water issue is settled. It is water, in the final analysis," said Naff, "that will determine the future of the occupied territories — and by extension, the issue of conflict or peace."

Naff also noted that American influence with the principal users of the Jordan basin's waters is sufficiently strong that the U.S. could play a positive role. "In addition to using its political and economic leverage, the U.S. can mobilise international diplomatic efforts to encourage a basin-wide agreement with inducements of economic aid and political support," he said.

In response to questions by Chairman Lee Hamilton, (Democrat of Indiana), Kolars said that according to statistics in the Israeli press and other sources, the Israeli population is using about 85 per cent of all the water available in the West Bank. There are also other restrictions on water use by Palestinians, he said: they cannot farm after 4 p.m., nor can they dig a new well or repair a well that is near an Israeli well.

Naff said that in some places on the West Bank since the intifada water consumption by Palestinians is "less than the United Nations reckons is necessary for

maintaining minimal health standards."

He said the water of the Israeli occupied Arab territories "has become so integral to Israel that the delicate balance of Israel's water system has become dependent on the water system of the territories." In need times, he said, "which is more and more the situation, Israel satisfies up to 35-40 per cent of its water needs from the West Bank and Gaza." In the past, he added, an average of one quarter of the nation's supply has normally come from the occupied territories.

impact not only on settlements in the Gaza, but it could have an impact on the coastal plain aquifer within Israel itself," because there is a "strong probability" that there is an interchange between the two. While there is no indication yet of saline seepage, Naff said, there is serious deterioration in the aquifer, and it is reaching what is known as the red line.

On the Jordan side of the basin, Naff said, "areas of Jordan are under water rationing." He said that while Israel is using water both from Jordan River

"At present... Israel is conducting a large-scale water trucking operation from Litani River, which lies entirely within sovereign Lebanese territory."

In response to other questions by Rep. Hamilton, Naff said he is unaware of any water use restrictions upon Jewish settlers in the West Bank. On the contrary, he added, "Jewish settlers' water is subsidised by the Israeli government."

Responding to questions about the water situation in the Gaza Strip, Naff said the Gaza aquifer is "rapidly deteriorating. There is already water encroachment from the Mediterranean," he pointed out, "and if that aquifer goes, that will have a very serious

and the Sea of Galilee, waters to the south of the Sea of Galilee are too polluted for Jordan to use.

"We have not talked about the great problem of water quality, which is as serious an issue as water quantity," he said, not only because it limits the amount of water that is available, but because "there have already been serious outbreaks of water-borne disease."

All of these issues, along with population problems, have to be addressed simultaneously, Naff stressed. — USA

Shift in economic programme keeps Poland on its toes

By John Daniszewski
The Associated Press

WARSAW — Walk the streets of this capital on any day, and see an economic revolution in progress. Look at the faces of the people, and see the human cost.

Poland's plunge into economic reform Jan. 1 was far bolder than any programme undertaken by neighbouring post-Communist countries.

Some people are obviously thriving. New Mercedes and Volvos with Polish licence plates are a common sight on Warsaw streets. A few luxury boutiques sell dresses and suits for more than the average month's salary, and do not lack for customers. There has been a general enlivening of commerce.

But there is also the pathetic sight of old people counting out a few zlotys to buy one or two rolls of bread, and the banners announcing the sale of gas guns to counter the crime wave that police experts blame on the hard times. According to government statistics, the country has entered a deep recession.

Poland's rocky experience during the first six months of switching to a market economy is giving pause to its giant neighbour to the east.

Soviet officials so far have rejected radical economic reform along Polish lines, admitting they do not have the political credibility to survive such a rapid transition. Instead Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov proposed in late May a "regulated market economy" that called for the doubling and tripling of food prices. Resultant panic buying and popular discontent forced postponement of the bread increases.

Such half-measures typified Poland during the 1980s until Solidarity came to power and its economists declared it was impossible to leap a wide chasm in short steps.

Bolstered by strong popular support, the Solidarity-led government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki rushed to implement an economic reform plan that instantly liberated most prices while keeping wages tied down.

But even Solidarity's popularity didn't prevent a backlash. Supporters of Mazowiecki now are pitted against those of Union Leader Lech Walesa in a dispute over the pace of reforms. The showdown could bring down the 10-month-old government, although the Solidarity movement itself remains strong.

Mazowiecki ended state subsidies for enterprises. The easy flow of bank credits were staunchly by high interest rates. The deficit-ridden state budget was balanced.

The Polish zloty was made fully convertible inside Poland, backed by a \$1 billion reserve fund lent by a consortium of Western nations. That eliminated the confusing array of legal, semi-legal and

illegal exchange rates.

After nearly six months, the plan's architect, Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz, can claim a certain success, said Polish Economics journalist Krzysztof Bien in an interview.

"What he has managed to do so far has never been accomplished before... However it is not yet the stage that would permit us to say that we are irrevocably on the road to a market economy. Everything we have achieved so far could be destroyed in a day."

The chief potential danger, he said, is a resurgence of inflation if the government relaxes its strict pay policies in response to recent industrial strikes and protests by small private farmers.

Taming runaway inflation — estimated at more than 1,000 per cent in 1989 — has been the greatest achievement of the programme so far. Prices spiked up when the plan was launched, but the tight controls on wages and lending soon stabilised them.

Statistics tell the story. Prices grew 79 per cent in January, 24 per cent in February, 4.7 per cent in March, 8.1 per cent in April and 5 per cent in May.

Freeing prices while holding down wages had an immediate effect on supplies in stores. Suddenly, the chronic shortages evaporated. The main reason: the drop in demand caused by the high prices. Then as supplies became more reliable, consumers stopped hoarding, further helping keep the shelves stocked.

For consumers with money, Poland has become — if not yet a shopper's paradise — at least a country where one can find most of life's essentials and a few luxuries without irritating lines or complicated barbers, bribes and deal-making.

Sellers are chasing buyers, and not the other way around as before. Former luxuries such as bananas and lemons are now sold on the street, and food stands that have sprung up serve customers at night, on weekends and on holidays. Warsaw even has a 24-hour French grocery.

On the down side, unemployment is around 400,000 people or about 3 per cent of the workforce. Joblessness, officially nonexistent a year ago, is expected to grow to 9 per cent, or 1.3 million people, this year.

"On one and the same street, you can find people who are really well off, and others who are unemployed and in a really difficult situation," said Bien, the journalist.

Slawomir Rudnicki, the co-owner of the new French grocery, complains about petty officials and regulations that still hinder business — like the rule that the bottled mineral water he imports be submitted to a health check each time his truck crosses the Polish border.

But he still calls himself an optimist. "It would have been impossible to open this shop a few years ago."

Economic quest seen behind Peking's release of dissident

By Janet Snyder
Reuters

BEIJING — The freeing of dissident Chinese scientist Fang Lizhi and his wife into British exile is a major concession by Beijing to quell Western anger over its human-rights record, diplomats said.

They called the release of China's most celebrated dissident, described by Beijing as a criminal, as a gesture to break a political deadlock with Washington and regain Western and Japanese loans, frozen after an army crackdown on dissent last June.

"This is a pretty significant climbdown, but a sensible one," a diplomat said. "Fang is getting off scot-free, especially if you go over all that China has said about him up to now."

The 54-year-old astrophysicist and his wife, Li Shuxian, took refuge in the U.S. embassy in Beijing last June 5 after tanks rumbled into the city's Tiananmen Square to crush a pro-democracy

campaign.

Authorities had accused Fang and his wife, who is also an astrophysicist, of "counter-revolutionary crimes" and issued a warrant for their arrest.

Beijing demanded the embassy hand them over and accused Washington of breaking international law and interfering in China's internal affairs.

The release of the couple precedes a Western economic summit meeting in the United States early next month at which the resumption of badly needed loans to China is expected to be discussed.

"In the context of wider relations between China and the West, this has to be seen as a very positive move. There's no doubt that London welcomes it, and the Americans as well," a Western diplomat said.

"This has been one of the problems that have lain in the path of better relations generally, for all Western countries," he said.

A spokesman for British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said in London that Fang had been invited by the Royal Society, Britain's foremost scientific and academic body, to pursue his career.

The official New China News Agency had said Fang and his wife had shown signs of repentance and had been allowed to leave for medical treatment.

"In view of the signs of repentance by Fang Lizhi and Li Shuxian, and their illness and out of humanitarian considerations, the Beijing Public Security Bureau has decided to allow them to go abroad for medical treatment in line with China's policy of leniency towards those who participated in the disturbances," the agency quoted the Ministry of Public Security said.

China did not say from what illness the two were suffering. A foreign diplomat said the reference to ill-health could have been a face-saving device.

Allowing the two to leave was

the latest in a series of steps by Beijing to try to deflect the sting of economic sanctions while keeping a tight clamp on domestic dissent.

Last week Beijing expelled dissident Pop Star Hou Dejian after more than two weeks of detention, ordering him to leave for his native Taiwan or face imprisonment. Two Chinese dissidents detained with him were also freed.

Martial law imposed in Beijing in May 1989, was lifted in January, although tight security has remained.

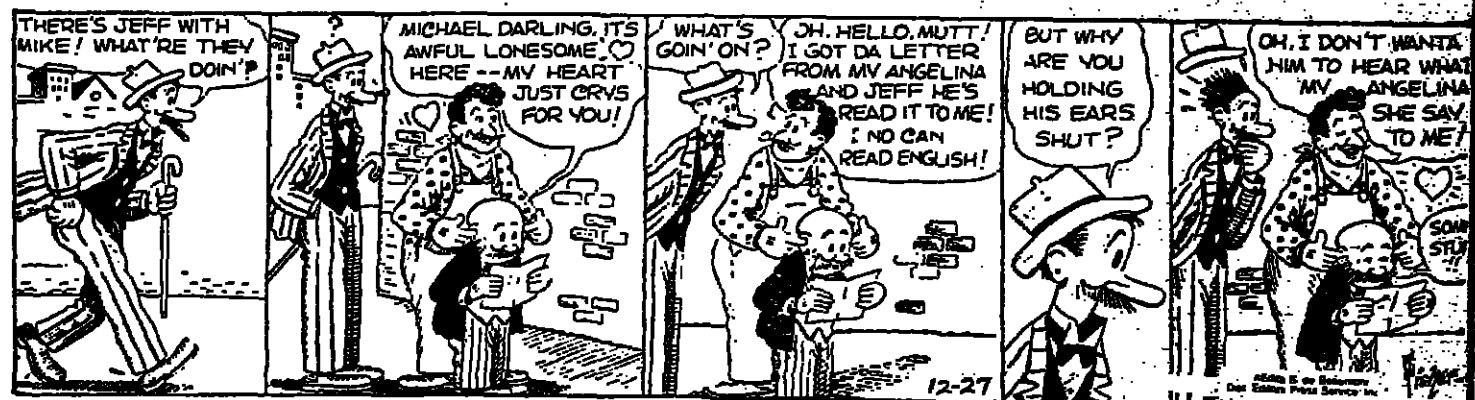
Since January, the government has announced the release of 88 people jailed in connection with last year's unrest.

This leaves 355 people still in prison, by China's own tally, and many more according to unofficial sources.

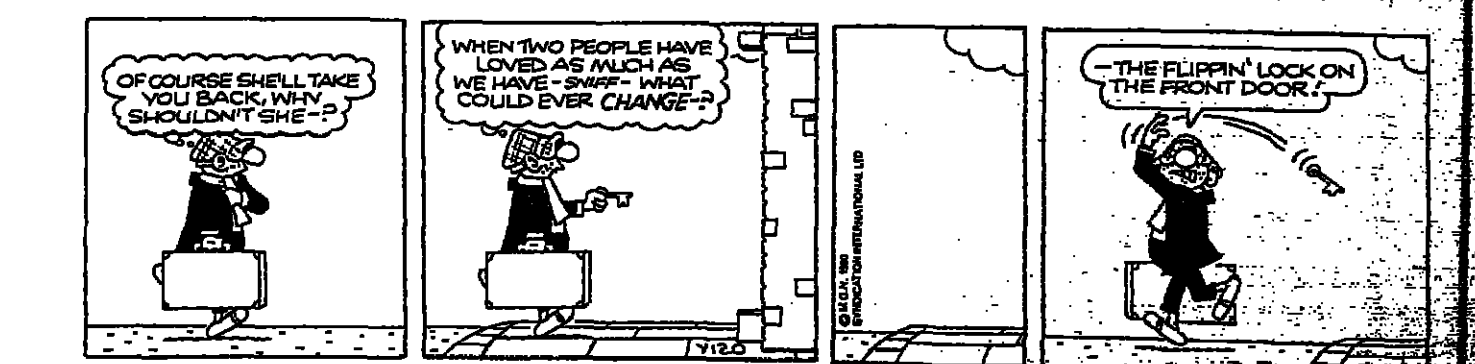
It has begun prosecuting lesser known critics.

"But this move (Fang's release) is likely to make it easier to heal some of the wounds," diplomat said.

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Jordanian Times WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

June 28, 1990 A

Mahadin, 'rebel' poet and writer turned Royal Court adviser

By Mariam Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — "The rebel who now works in the palace" is how some people in Jordan have described journalist, writer and poet Khaled Mahadin. As a columnist for the Arabic daily Al Ra'i, Mahadin scathingly attacked many a government policy for the past 12 years. Today, in Jordan's democratic era, he holds the post of press adviser to His Majesty King Hussein.

Did the Karak-born Jordanian writer have a change of heart? Or have the trappings of democratic Jordan given him a well deserved place as chief of the Press Department at the Royal Court?

Mahadin recently shared his views on the role of the printed word, the future of

the information media in Jordan and the freedom of the press in the Kingdom.

"First of all I was never a rebel," Mahadin declares, correcting what he feels has been a fallacious perception of his role in the press. "I was and still am the ears, eyes and, through my writings, the mouth of the people. As a writer and journalist it is my duty to raise the level of

awareness to what is happening in our society and point out the different sides of view to each subject at hand," Mahadin explains.

For most of his life in Jordan, he worked as an advisor in various government ministries while pursuing his career as a journalist. At different intervals he worked with the Ministry of Culture and later the Ministry of Information.

His career at home began after an almost ten-year stay in Libya, where he worked with the Libyan press from 1969 to 1978. "When I came back to Jordan, in the period from 1978 to 1985, I wrote very harsh articles attacking the validity of several government policies," he recalls.

According to Mahadin, the freedom to attack government policies constructively did exist during that period, and the ministers of information (which, in turn, were Adnan Abu Odeh, Sa'id Al Tal and Leila Sharaf) defended the Jordanian press and journalists' rights at the time. "We, as journalists, had a good working relationship with the ministry and ministers of information. We were good colleagues," he maintains.

While he feels the press had leeway and was relatively free up to 1985, Mahadin does not have the same feelings about the conditions of the Jordanian press afterwards.

"In April 1985 I wrote an article for a London-based Arabic magazine called Al Tadamon. It was an analysis of some of the government policies in Jordan at the time." Soon afterwards, in May of that year, Mahadin lost his job as a senior adviser at the Ministry of Information.

"I was fired because I wrote the article," he says. "I filed a law suit against the government, and you know what the prosecutor general did? He tried to use things that I had written in Jordan while Mudar Badran and Abdul Hamid Sharaf were prime ministers to prove that I was a 'danger' to Jordan."

At the time of his expulsion from the ministry, Zeid Rifai was prime minister and, according to Mahadin, the ministers of information which served in the government of Rifai did nothing to endear Jordanian writers to them.

"In fact, not only was I accused of being a 'danger' to the country, the then minister of information asked that I be tried for treason after I had published an article about Jordan's role in reconciling Iraq and Syria in 1985," Mahadin recalls. "What the minister was not aware of was that His Majesty had thanked me for the article personally."

The conflicts between the press and government, in the period from 1985 to 1989 that Mahadin and other journalists and writers speak of today were between the press and government only and not between journalists and the "establishment", Mahadin maintains.

"It is the duty of the fourth

estate to point at social, political or economic problems in any society or country and say: this is an ill-founded policy; otherwise there is no need for the press at all," he says.

While his role as a journalist was not affected when working as a government official, it has become harder for him to remain an independent writer while serving as press adviser to the King.

"I was always expressing my opinion about things when I was working for the ministries, even if it was in direct conflict with the official policy of the ministry," Mahadin recalls. "But now I have to be very careful in what I write, because many people could and do interpret an article as the stand or opinion of the Royal Court, which it may very well not be," he says.

While seemingly not very perturbed by his sensitive position, Mahadin is worried about the future role of the press in Jordan.

"During the years of 'repression' journalists were constantly trying to tease the government. That is no longer necessary," he says. "Things in Jordan have changed and those changes should be reflected in what our writers say."

Mahadin believes that an "independent" press will play an important role in enhancing the democratic structure in the Kingdom.

"At present there is no fair presentation of the views of many different groups in Jordan, among them the pan-Arabists, the independents, the Islamists and the leftists," Mahadin says.

"There is a need for the national charter (which is under discussion now) to ensure that majorities and minorities will not be left out of the game, in politics, in economics and in the press," he adds, reflecting on how the new social contract (national charter) between the government and the governed should deal with a pluralistic media and press freedoms.

"Furthermore it is up to journalists to ensure that they are able to practise their trade freely. Journalists were fired from their jobs and arrested during crackdowns on the press. So they must create an infrastructure that will prevent the weakness caused by disunity in the fourth estate," Mahadin says.

"Strength from within that will not allow such a suppression to occur again and that will not allow for outsiders, whoever they may be, to interfere with the freedom of the press, is the only way a free and reliable press can exist in Jordan."

E. Yaghi

Moonchild

MOONCHILD lay unconscious on the living room floor, while her two small sons who were locked in a nearby room cried and pounded on the unyielding door. Close to where Moonchild lay, her contentious husband, Beast, sat casually smoking a cigarette, oblivious to his young wife on the floor as well as his screaming children. Revenge was sweet on his lips and he sat back satisfied with the appropriate punishment that he had dealt out when he choked Moonchild until her body grew limp and she fainted.

A sadist, Beast was quite talented in meting out punishment to ever-deserving Moonchild. This time she had gone too far. She forgot to boil the raisins before she put them in his "gatief," although Moonchild pleaded that she had never heard of such a procedure. Nevertheless, Beast was boss and there was no excuse for Moonchild's carelessness and insubordination.

Sometimes docile Moonchild would walk about for days with bruises on her face and body or red finger marks on her throat as proof of her disobedience. Often Beast beat her for no reason when he felt tired and upset from a "hard" day of casual work. She was there, so she became his prey. Frequently ample punishment would also be impinged on his small sons who always warranted a disciplining slap on the face or a hit on the head.

Beast got up, weary of hearing his children scream and cry. They were disturbing him. He looked at beautiful Moonchild and failed to notice her soft blonde hair which haloed her fair skin.

Her petit form lay silent and stiff, her green eyes wide and staring but unseeing. Her white throat showed each finger that he had choked her with. He knew she was still alive. Too bad he couldn't just finish her off someday and get rid of her. He turned towards the door and the children, unlocked it and gave each one a hard slap on the face followed by sharp punches on their backs. The younger, two years old, choked with fear and ran with swallowed cries to a corner. The older took the blows with hate and his eyes grew cold as he stifled his tears knowing that more blows would follow if he kept crying.

After a while Moonchild woke up alone. She sat up groggily and through hazy eyes saw Beast watching television unconcerned as if nothing had happened. When he saw that she had regained consciousness he warned her to never make the same unforgivable mistake again, or perhaps next time she wouldn't wake up at all.

Moonchild's first thought was her children. She had to see if they were all right. She struggled to their room, unlocked the door and saw that her baby had wept himself to sleep. The older child was sullen and speechless but his fair eyes flickered a faint sign of relief for his mother's being alive. Moonchild huddled near her children, shaking, crying and wondering just when her husband would explode again and for what unjustified reason. How much longer could she take such abuse? What kind of life was this for her and the children? How soon would she be beaten again for little or no reason? Divorce would only mean the loss of her cherished children.

How many women are like Moonchild, victims of mental or physical cruelty by sadistic husbands? Many bear pain in silence either from fear or humiliation. How many children are also victims of such homes and will grow up permanently scarred? What can our society do to remedy such abuse? In Islam, the best of men is the one who is best to his family.

Wednesday's Child

WEDNESDAY'S Child is the son of Moonchild. He has just turned seven. His birthday passed nearly unnoticed and without violence. He is a handsome child. His beauty belies his young troubled life. His dark hair falls in gentle waves around his thin face. His green eyes studded with thick, dark lashes sometimes sparkle, but more often, cloud with tears.

Wednesday's Child is confused and frustrated. Small lines furrow his innocent face. Around his mouth on one side, there is a facial scar resembling a burn caused by the mental trauma of witnessing one of the many beatings of his mother by his father. But Wednesday's Child is not only a terrified spectator to his mother's abuse, he is also himself a victim of his father's rage. He is a battered child. Frequently, for little or no reason, his father lashes out at him, usually by slapping his face or hammering his head. Yet, when Wednesday's Child does need fatherly discipline for unruly behaviour, he is condoned or encouraged for indecorum.

Wednesday's Child is not an only child. He has a younger brother, but since his sibling is still fortunately considered a "baby" he escapes most of the harsh punishment his father measures out.

During one small, brief interval when Wednesday's father was working outside the country, Wednesday enjoyed the bliss of a calm home. He almost turned into a normal child and behaved as other boys his age did. When his father returned, however, the child grew confused and puzzled. His behaviour became strange and erratic. He became accustomed to exist as an animal in a jungle struggling for survival.

Wednesday is bright and intelligent. He is the first in his class in school. But his intelligence needs a peaceful environment in order to flourish. Wednesday lacks all the basic requirements in which his curiosity and creativity can expand.

He fails to understand his own predicament as a valve for his father's anger, much less comprehend his mother's battered face or choked throat. His mother Moonchild is meek and humble. She is gentle with her children and her softness provides them with the sanity and love they so desperately need.

Wednesday's father was himself a battered child. He often bore scratches on his face and body resulting from his own father's anger. He too witnessed his mother beaten for little or no reason. He inherited abuse as a way of life and in turn inflicts this heritage on Moonchild, Wednesday, and one day soon the "baby."

What hope has Wednesday to grow up a normal child? What kind of adult will he become in his society? Will he in turn also abuse his future wife and children or will he in fact shun marriage completely and become a misfit in life and society? Truly, "Wednesday's Child is full of woe."

Editor's note:

The Diary does not appear in today's Weekender due to technical reasons. E. Yaghi's column will appear on the pages of the Weekender every Thursday. E. Yaghi was born in Denver, Colorado, and later married a Jordanian and moved to Jordan. "I would like to be thought of as an American who has come to deeply love Jordan and the Jordanian people. I share with them their joys and their sorrows," E. Yaghi says as she describes herself.



Khaled Mahadin

SAFEWAY INTERNATIONAL

2nd Anniversary Celebration



COME & JOIN THE FUN

FRIDAY - JUNE 29 - FROM 10 A.M. - 6 P.M.

FOOD, GAMES, LIVE MUSIC, LOTTERY, FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT, & DISCOUNTED PRICES.

BRAND	ITEM	SIZE	PRICE
Ekon	Insect Repellent	30 pieces	0.960
RAID	Insect Spray	40 ml.	1.200
JUICY	Drink Mix	750 GR	1.000
KAWTHAR	Mineral Water	1.5 Liter	0.200
HALUB GHEE	Ghee	2 KG	3.600
AL MARAI	Cheese Spread	140 GR	0.340
AL SHIFA HONEY	Pure Honey	500 GR	1.500
CALIFORNIA GARDENS	Sliced Carrots	454 GR	0.350
CALIFORNIA GARDENS	Cut Green Beans	454 GR	0.350
CALIFORNIA GARDENS	Hot Sauce	185 GR	0.195
DIAMOND	Aluminum Foil	25 ft	0.950
P.K	Gum		0.100
KODAK(100)	Colour Film	24 Exps.	1.950
KODAK(400)	Colour Film	36 Exps.	3.700
CLASSIC	Trash Bags (10 x 30 in.)	12 pieces	1.750
BUTTER BALL	Boneless Turkey Breast	1 kg.	7.800

- JEWELLERY ACCESSORIES FOR ALL OCCASIONS
- BONJOUR JEANS - NEW STYLES
- BETA - ESPADRILLE SHOES & TOP SIDERS - SUMMER COLLECTION.
- CHILDREN CLOTHING - BUSIERBROWN, 10% OFF.
- 7% DISCOUNT ON SOME FINE PRODUCTS
- TUNISIAN GLASSWARE - COMPETITIVE PRICES

THESE PRICES ARE EFFECTIVE FROM JUNE 29 - JULY 13
SAFEWAY HAS THE RIGHT TO LIMITATE QUANTITIES.

THE ABOVE PRICES ARE ALSO
AVAILABLE AT ALWAHA STORES
7TH CIRCLE

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, June 28

8:30 A Different World
Denise's science grades are low so, she rings up her brother "Theo" for help. Theo arrives alright, but spends his time doing other things.

9:10 Dolphin Cove
Scott is back to participate in his son's birthday party. His Vietnamese experiences have affected his manners and Kate displays an uncanny sense of understanding the dolphins.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie of the Week Virtuosos
This is the life story of the world-class British pianist John Ogden. Diagnosed as schizophrenic, having attempted suicide. The love of his wife and friends saved his talent.

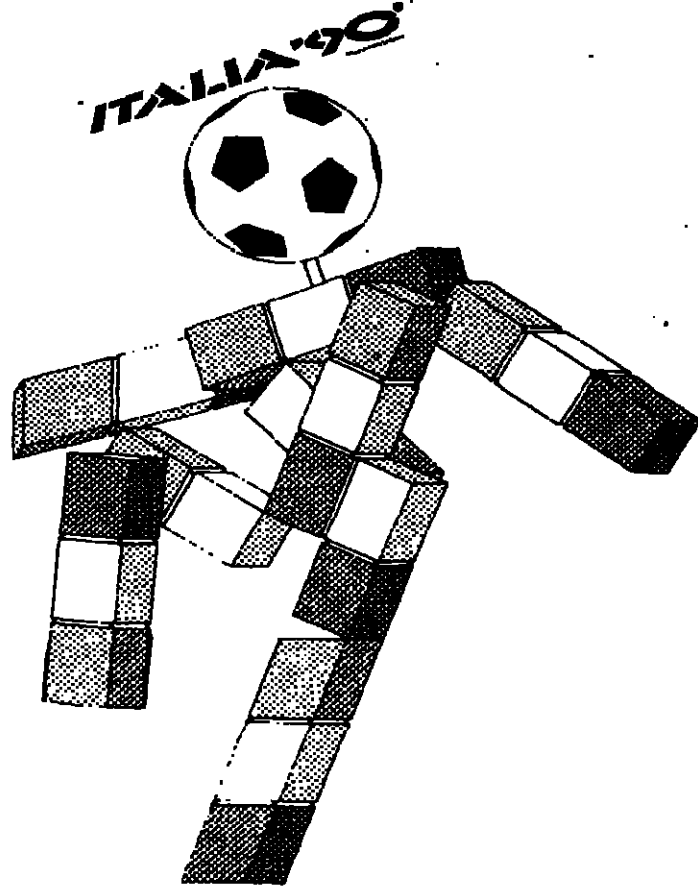
Friday, June 29

8:30 Didi's Comedy Show
A bunch of gangsters are after Didi and his friend because they have possession of the diamonds. Didi disguises several times differently in an attempt to reach the police.

Beauty and the Beast
Diana and Vincent discover that a vendetta is motivating a killer to kill regularly the underground people, and father himself almost gets killed. In the end the killer commits suicide.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Quincy
To Clear the Air
Pollution in the neighbourhood is caused by a chemical plant and death among heart patients increased. To combat the evils of pollution is a job for Quincy.



high price for jealousy

9:10 Murder She Wrote
J.B. as in Jail
A Bulgarian diplomat is murdered and Jessica is accused. But the real criminal who calls himself "Cobra" gets caught as he tries to get paid for what he did.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Tales From Hollywood
Julie used to be a famous show woman. She wants to get back to the limelight, but when she receives help from the right people, her ego blinds her mind and in the end gets left alone again.

Tuesday, July 3

8:30 Golden girls

9:10 A Horseman Riding By

10:00 News in English

10:20 Varieties

10:45 Feature Film
The Last of the Fast Guns
Starring: Linda Cristal, Gilbert Roland
A rich businessman hires a professional gunman to locate his brother who has been missing for 20 years. When the gunman finds him in Mexico he learns a few new things about life.

Wednesday, July 4
8:30 You Rang My Lord

9:10 Women in Politics

10:00 News in English

10:20 Varieties

10:45 Stradivari
Antonio finds his way to the royal court but that does not make him any richer. His wife dies of illness. Antonio remarries and settles down happily and now he wants to teach his son his skill, which he adores.

Saturday, June 30

8:30 Empty Nest
Take My Mother, Please
The child, Erica, plays the role of a match-maker beautifully. She wants Dr. Weston for her mother and does a good job at that.

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Classical Music

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Allo... Allo...
When the Germans disguise themselves as British pilots, the stormtroopers arrest them. No wonder the French resistance is so successful.

Sunday, July 1

8:30 Hey Dad
Martin does his best to get

rid of his secretary to little avail. His family has already fallen for her, especially that she is a good housekeeper.

9:10 The Big Heat

Panorama: documentary

Carbonic gases ascending from factories will eventually lead to the warming of the Earth atmosphere. The documentary discusses the dangerous consequences of this phenomenon.

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

July 2, Monday

8:30 Perfect Strangers
Every One in the Pool
Balki is winning every bet he places on football games. Larry is jealous and wants to do the same, but ends up \$10,000 in the red, a very

Italian disco owners defend right to dance the night away

By John Follain
Renter

ROME — A government clampdown on the right of Italian youngsters to bop until they drop — whether at dawn or even later — has caused uproar among disco-goers and owners.

A controversial government decree, which took effect this month, says discos and night clubs must close at two a.m. Those in tourist areas are allowed to stay open until four a.m. in peak summer months.

Ministers say they are trying to stem a spate of Saturday night car accidents in which youngsters, exhausted and sometimes worse the wear for drink have been killed on the long drive back from discotheques.

But thousands of disco owners have refused to obey the curfew, saying it would force many night spots to close and will fail to cut road deaths.

The death count in road accidents between midnight Saturdays and five a.m. Sundays is nearly six times worse than other days of the week, official figures show.

Italian youngsters think nothing of driving 100 kilometres or more to a fashionable night club and then returning home again at dawn.

The worst toll was on a February weekend. Twenty-three people were killed in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday, most of them students in their early 20s driving home after an evening's dancing.

Behind the decree is "the mamma lobby" — 90,000 crusading, self-styled "anti-rock mothers" throughout Italy who signed a petition protesting at the number of accidents and calling for the early closure of discos.

But youngsters bopping to house music at one of Rome's trendiest discos, the Select Alien, reject the decree handed down by what they see as a nanny-state.

"The ministers are wrong. It costs an arm and a leg to get drunk in a discotheque — it's expensive enough already just to get in," said Isabella di Lauro, a 20-year-old economics student.

Despite the decree, dancing at Alien started after midnight as usual and its doors closed at five a.m.

Before the decree even took effect an emergency assembly of the 7,300 members of Italy's Federation of Discos and Night Clubs voted unanimously to break the law rather than obey the curfew. Owners of discos on the Adriatic coast near Rimini, Italy's top holiday stop for West German sun-worshippers, can already count on the support of local mayors.

"The fact we have so many discos in this area — 700 — is an important attraction for foreigners, and Italian's too. Hit the discos and you hit tourism," said Nando Fabbri, Communist mayor of the seaside resort of Bellaria.

He is one of seven mayors near Rimini to have pledged not to enforce the decree. Discos close at five a.m. in Bellaria, where the population swells from 13,000 in winter to 90,000 during the summer months.

The mayors on the Rimini coast, like disco-owners from all over Italy, say the best way to stop youngsters killing themselves on the roads is to send out more police to enforce speed limits.

Far from reducing the number of ugly accidents, the decree could raise the death toll

further, said Sergio Valentini, president of the discos' federation.

"About four million people go dancing at weekends regularly. If discos which are not in tourist areas have to close at two, that'll be an incentive for people to just take the car and drive off to one that is allowed to stay open," he said.

"That means more youngsters on the road, and probably more accidents," added Valentini, who owns a night club outside Rimini. Earlier this month he led a delegation of disgruntled disco-owners to a meeting with Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti.

Andreotti agreed to meet Valentini again to consider a proposal that discos and night clubs without exception should close at four a.m.

Asked what discos would do in the meantime, federation official Marco Frattini said:

"Well, just do their own thing. Everybody will do what they want, which will create even more problems."

"But what's the sense in a decree that not everyone obeys?"

Sun never sets on world's northernmost film festival

By Nigel Stephenson
Renter

SODANKYLA, Finland — The sun never sets on the world's most northerly film festival in the remote village of Sodankyla in Finnish lapland.

As the audience filed out of a screening of Louis Malle's *Milou in May*, at 12.30 a.m. on the opening day of the fifth annual Midnight Sun Film Festival, it was still shining.

Here, 130 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle, the sun will not set again until the end of July.

Yet spectators bought 16,000 tickets to sit in the dark and watch some 50 films in Sodankyla's lone cinema, the local school and a marquee during this year's five-day festival last week.

"It all started from a crazy idea," said festival director Peter Von Bagh, a film-maker and film historian.

"It was started because it was highly improbable to go to a very flat and uninteresting place in the middle of lapland and put on an international film festival.

"From the beginning, it attracted foreigners in a quite unusual way."

Top film-makers drawn to this most unlikely location in past years have included Michael Powell, Samuel Fuller, Bertrand Tavernier and Jonathan Demme.

"It would not have been

interesting to put on a film festival in Helsinki. It is the isolation and concentration of Sodankyla and all the trouble of getting there," said Von Bagh.

Sodankyla is 130 kilometres from the nearest major airport or train station at Rovaniemi, the Lapland provincial capital on the Arctic Circle.

It is a world away from the glamour and ceremonial of festivals in Cannes, Berlin or Venice.

Once in the village there are just two hotels, so many of the festival audience camp out at the mercy of voracious mosquitoes.

"The audience is made up of ordinary film lovers, mostly from Finland, but people who, in ordinary circumstances, do not have a chance to see good films on the big screen," said Von Bagh.

The festival was the brainchild of Finnish film-makers Anssi Manttari and the brothers Mika and Aki Kaurismaki.

Aki Kaurismaki, the festival's technical director, had two films — *Leningrad Cowboys - Go America*, and *Hamlet Goes Business* — showing simultaneously in London earlier this year.

Films are not shown in competition in Sodankyla and there are no world premieres. The films are chosen by a five-strong artistic committee.

A feature of the festival is that each year the work of a

veteran director is showcased. "We always like to have old masters. The problem is there are not many of them left and many of them can't or don't want to travel any more," said Aki Kaurismaki.

This year's "Old Master" was Richard Fleischer, director of 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, 10 Rillington Place, the Jazz Singer and The Boston Strangler.

"This is a wonderful idea," he said. "I've been to other

Pierre Leaud, who starred in many of the new wave films of Francois Truffaut.

Leaud has recently been working with Aki Kaurismaki on his latest film, *I Hired a Contract Killer*.

Stars and spectators rub shoulders in the festival hotel bar and share the same hard wooden benches in the tent. The informality is deliberate.

"Nobody meets anybody at the big festivals. They could be in 25 different restaurants and there is no common feeling. Here there is no escape," said Aki Kaurismaki.

The impact of the festival on the village of 7,000 people is significant and welcome. The 5,000 or so visitors were expected to spend 10 million markka (\$2.5 million). In return, the local community contributes 250,000 markka (\$62,500) towards the running of the festival.

Yet some changes are on the way. After five years, the Kaurismaki brothers are stepping down from the artistic committee. The festival will stay in Sodankyla but practical organisation will be taken over by organisers of another film festival based in the central city of Tampere.

"There is a danger of its becoming institutionalised," said Aki Kaurismaki, "so the old crew has decided to stop it. It will be continued by partly new people and maybe they will bring new blood and new ideas."

Weekend Crossword

Edited by Herb Etkens

GRAMMAR I

By Arthur S. Verdesca

ACROSS
1 Creative op.
10 A long way off
14 Eaves
18 Pet
19 Exc's transport
21 "Vive —"
22 Magazine
24 Military strategist
26 Heading panic
27 Unusual
30 Shattered
31 Sarcastic
32 Trim
33 Twined crystals
36 Auto accessories
38 Hammerstein

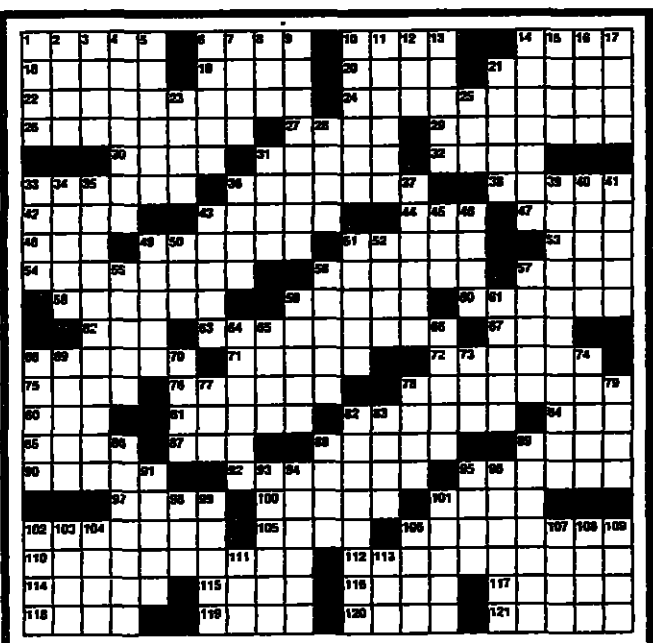
DOWN
1 Horned vipers
2 Let it be
3 Mac Dinters of "Blondie"
4 An occupant
5 Humans
6 Pass over
7 Phil base
8 "Yankee Doodle..."
9 Settler
10 Assume an office
11 Less voracious
12 — glance
13 Sil
14 Most fresh as mom
15 Melody
16 Women's rights pioneer
17 Actual state of affairs

Diagrams
1 Tooth
2 Back talk
3 Lullaby
4 Picture puzzle
5 Tapestry
6 Rara —
7 Obnoxious
8 Jellies
9 Fill with joy
10 Albacore
11 Pipe joint

DOWN
1 Relating to wedlock
2 Fat
3 Throw in a high arc
4 Mature
5 Something helpful
6 Hit hard
7 Flying prefix
8 Walk pompously

ACROSS
23 Falena or Albright
24 Boleat part
25 Bookcase part
27 Sub. subj.
28 Dine
29 Very great
30 Take
31 Confused noise
32 Low esteem
33 Dunderhead
36 Sediment

DOWN
9 Assort
14 A pronoun
15 Island greeting
16 Servant of a lord
17 Membership fees
18 Fat
19 Otherwise
20 Eccentric child
21 Decorate
22 Impair
31 Roosts



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Bold young cab sent helps two elderly persons across dangerous highway during rush hour.
2. Bench of rabid rabbits had rapid run to safety of nearby briar patch.
3. Most dieting is devilishly easy. Simply give up all the things you love to eat.
4. Many fumbling troubleshooters may get shot for their trouble.

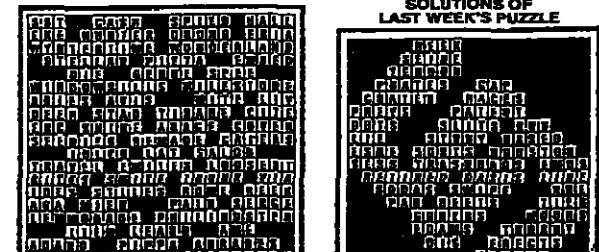
CRYPTOGRAMS

1. ORRES AME WUOLR GAME TAME OHTTRYG
YA WRRY PUG ORK CHETRY KPRO PR
WILLURE I SAHOT CLUER. —By Lois B. Jones

2. UNOIMUR UNGUDN BIG REGR IGB FALI YINK
MON BGOYI ARAMDCK MONE'Y BGOYI YIMY
FALL FMNRN LNEYR. —By Barbara J. Rupp

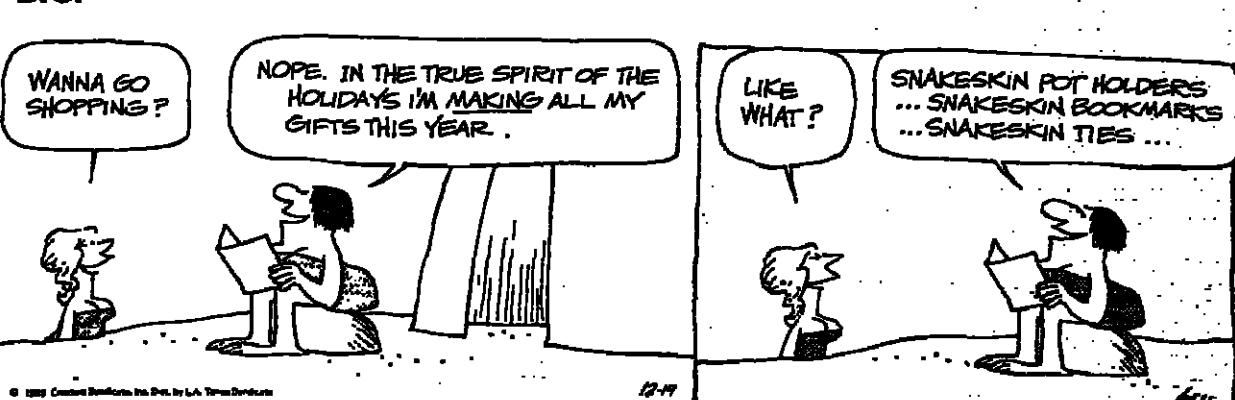
3. OTILCZR FNME BXIZWE MILLSW GNR GIMC
EXIZWE GNW ESB IGSNW I TXIPSLIGZX
OINPFVYZX: OVLX. —By Gordon Miller

4. CPOFNK DK SANDY UNDAF FOIT IDINTL
GCPX ASPPGYOKL UDKRSGCN. —By Ed Holliday



SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

B.C.



The Arts

After Abba Sweden takes on world pop scene with Roxette

By Eva Ahlberg
Reuter

STOCKHOLM — An American exchange student liked the sound of Sweden's Roxette so much that he took a tape of their domestic hit "The Look" home to Minneapolis and pestered his local radio station to play it.

Now Roxette's songs are being played by radio stations around the world and the group has become the hottest musical export Sweden has had since Abba left the international pop scene a decade ago.

Per Gessle, the group's songwriter and guitar player, described Roxette's road to success:

"It was an almost dizzying, like a cinderella story. The 'Look' spread from station to station and soon we were heard across the United States," he said.

Gessle and Marie Fredriksson, a dynamic blonde singer who also writes for the group, led their band to the big time in the spring of 1989 when

The Look soared to the top of the U.S. charts.

A second hit, Listen to Your Heart, reached number one only a few months later, in October, 1989.

And earlier this month Roxette's latest song It Must Have Been Love, receiving global exposure in the movie Pretty Woman featuring actor Richard Gere, has given Roxette their third number one hit in the U.S. in about a year.

Gessle, 31, and Fredriksson, 32, are both from the southern Swedish town of Halmstad. Sometimes described by the Swedish media as looking like the British group of Eurythmics, the two played with different bands for several years prior to joining up with four others to create Roxette.

Roxette was discovered by the U.S. music industry after Dean Cushman from Minneapolis took their first hit record to his hometown.

The success was almost instant.

"They called from EMI



Marie Fredriksson of Roxette

is the feeling to belong to it... money is fun, sure, but it is the feeling which gives the most," he said.

In the wake of Roxette, a number of other Swedish artists are also making their mark in the international music industry.

Neneh Cherry, a black female rap singer, is one of them.

Originally Swedish but based in London, Cherry has made a quick international career with her rap songs which often touch on problems of the modern world such as Manchild and Inna City Mama.

Her half-sister Titiyo lives in Stockholm and has a sound which she describes as a combination of Reggae, Afro, Soul and Funk.

Titiyo, whose hit is called talking to the Man in the Moon, was recently voted Best Female Singer of the Year in Sweden and now looks set for stardom, if not internationally at least in her native country.

Garbage art is in the eye of the beholder

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A San Francisco garbage disposal company is eager to turn metal rubbish into art.

Norcal Solid Waste Systems has created an artist-in-residence programme at a collection centre where the city's rubbish is sorted before being trucked to a dump.

"Our goal is to make the public aware of how important it is to reclaim as much waste as we can," said Jacqueline tripp of Norcal.

To get its customers to think twice before throwing things out, Norcal has enlisted metal sculptor William Wareham to turn throw-away metal into art. He, in turn, hopes to sell his works for thousands of dollars.

"Every artist goes through debris boxes," Wareham said in an interview in the former metal-recycling barn provided for him by Norcal. "I have all these debris boxes in my backyard."

Wareham picks over the city's discarded shopping carts, motorcar parts, hot water tanks, bus fenders, bed frames and other unwanted metal. His goal is to create a seven-by-10-metre piece which will be displayed outside the dump near San Francisco Bay.

Under his agreement with Norcal, he will give the company one to three other pieces created during his three-month stay. He can keep everything else. Wareham's works are to be shown this summer in San Francisco and later this year in New York City.

"A lot of this material is crushed," he said of his latest medium, offering a visitor a seat on a chair made from an oil barrel.

Normally, a machine with 350 tonnes of pressure crushes the metal refuse into blocks almost a metre wide and almost two metres long. These are then sheared and the pieces are recycled.

"The crushing and shearing give a distortion to the material that I couldn't get with heat," said Wareham, who normally works with sheet metal that he welds and cuts. "This metal is much more fluid, more ribbon-like than I'm used to."

Wareham collects material daily, sometimes snatching up pieces of garbage — like the huge bus bumper that hangs from the ceiling of his barrack-like studio — before they are processed beyond recognition.

Immersed in his work amid the garbage, Wareham is surrounded by dozens of his creations, which make his workshop look like a department store where the goods in the electrical appliance section have melted.

Wareham, who has a master's degree in fine art from the University of California at Berkeley, constructs abstract, geometric sculptures. Some are small enough to put on a table, others stand two metres tall.

A cluster of four flattened hot water heaters resemble a junkyard stonehenge. Another piece — the crushed top of another water heater — looks like a face.

The artist's work consists mostly of arranging different objects, welding them together and often painting them.

Many of the pieces in his works are recognisable from a former life.

"I try not to change the material, because there's a purity if you can take something as it is and make it work," he said.

"Wareham thinks his work may help change people's attitudes about what art actually is."

"Seeing this, maybe the average homeowner might think differently about throwing away that used swing set or bicycle part," he said.

"Art doesn't always come from a quarry or bronze factory. It can also come from the debris process and can end up being a beautiful thing."

Hanae Mori — fashion's 'madame butterfly'

By Michela Wong
Reuter

PARIS — Long before the West came to know and love the likes of Kenzo, Issey Miyake and Yohji Yamamoto, there was only one Japanese designer who counted in Paris.

Thirteen years later, Hanae Mori is still selling her discreet designs to a market of sophisticated women.

The 63-year-old designer shows no envy talking about the younger generation of Japanese stylists, who have grabbed the headlines since they set out on the path she had already beaten through the commercial jungle and tame West.

"They are so intelligent," says "madame," as she is universally known. "They have studied at university so long, and now they know the Western way. They are very different from me."

This is something of an understatement.

While Miyake, Yamamoto and Rei Kawakubo at "come des garçons" have taken a revolutionary approach to clothes, pulling them apart and reconstructing them on starkly asexual lines, Mori remains faithful to her original formula of elegant tailored suits and sweetly feminine evening dresses.

"The Japanese designers want to dress an abstraction, Madame Mori wants to dress a woman," comments an old friend and business associate.

If her father had had his way, Mori would never have become a designer. A skilled surgeon himself, working in southwest Japan, he wanted his children to follow in his wake.

"But I hated the image of a doctor — the blood and the dirt. I wanted to be an artist, but at the time artists were regarded as Communists,"

retirement, she decided to make her first trip to the West and spend a holiday in Paris.

A visit to "Coco" Chanel's shop changed her mind — she was inspired by the French woman's bold designs and returned to Tokyo determined to revamp her approach.

In 1965 she launched her attack on the West, unveiling a collection in New York which convinced a sceptical audience a Japanese designer could cut for Western women.

She opened two shops in Paris and in 1977 she became the first Japanese stylist to belong to the Chambre Syndicale de la Haute Couture — France's exclusive fashion organisation. She is still the only Japanese member, despite her younger rivals' more extravagant commercial success.

She is dubbed the "madame butterfly" of fashion — a reference to her favourite insignia, embroidered and printed on dresses and skirts, as unmistakable as Chanel's camellia.

"The shape is so fragile and beautiful. The butterfly is a symbol of passion," she says.

Spruce in a silk shirt and black skirt, she limits her jewellery to a butterfly ring and butterfly earrings. Her hair is jet black and she looks younger than her years.

Mori has become a sort of honorary Frenchwoman and the special esteem in which she is held by the establishment was shown last year when she was awarded the Legion d'Honneur, France's most prestigious decoration.

She is now considered to be one of the most powerful businesswomen in Japan. She has designed clothes for every prime minister's wife since the 1960s and sits on government committees.

Her business empire, with a more than \$400-million turnover, encompasses fashion, accessories, household furnishings and publishing, with major outlets in Paris, New York and Tokyo.

Her achievement is impressive enough on its own. But for a Japanese woman, groomed to a submissive role in a male-dominated society, it is all the more remarkable.

"Of course, Japan is a gentleman's nation," she acknowledges. "But I had a very good husband and he helped me a lot."

At the fashion house on Avenue Montaigne, collections aimed at a new, younger clientele are being prepared and fresh models brought in to replace the staid house mannequins of the past.

Among all the business plans, there is still time for a sentimental project. "I'm thinking of opening a butterfly farm in Japan... I grew up in the country, and my image of spring was always butterflies," says Mori.

Winter fashions 1990/91

New fashion lives on colour and luxurious fabrics

PARIS is not just the centre of the world when it comes to haute couture — Paris is increasingly becoming the metropolis for international design. Leading Italians such as Valentino, Versace or Ferré present their collections in Paris. The best English houses consider showing by the Seine a "must" and the Germans, notably the enterprising Susanne Wiebe, exhibit during luxury Prêt-à-Porter time.

Daywear is clearly dominated by the new, narrow pants. These invariably come in stretch fabrics and are often so skinny that they look like a ballerina's training tights. Some are printed, too. Lycra, Latex and jersey come in a selection of stitches or alternatively the ballerina pants sport a stout rib. The preferred jackets are hip-covering in luminous colours or swirling, cropped coats in Mexican blanket plaids or tapestry jacquards. Jackets of this type frequently have velvet collars, and cuffs, especially when the skin-tight anchored pants are also sculpted out of velvet.

Classically-cut trousers with pleated waistbands are still around. They come in cashmere or alpaca and are topped by trench coats with giant lapels. Italy and the U.S. favour this trend towards modern, but nonetheless classical nonchalance.

Day dresses are in flannel or lightweight etamines, decorated Chanel-like with braiding, embellished with applications, closed with rows of gold buttons and topped with demure little white collars. St. Gall embroideries are very popular. Costumes often trimmed with gorgeous lace applications, for example to mark the waist of finish off sleeves or collar. Swiss design can really go to town here. Lace is also

used for the numerous tops worn under the jackets of two-pieces. Embroidered lace is even seen in the morning for sporty lunchtime suits and gold lace bedecks evening outfits. This coming autumn, elegant women will wear a gold lace top over black anchored pants in velvet or satin and top them with a black parka — with or without fur — in a silk-gloss microfibre stitched onto wadding or down. The haute couture influence in unmistakable. A

year ago, Ferré focussed on the cashmere parka and Yves Saint Laurent on the duffle coat. Now, these two classics reappear in every shape and form in almost all the leading collections. What's more: the world loves them! After all, the modern woman adores practical, functional fashion which looks understated, but comes in luxury fabrics.

The gleam of sequins remains very popular. Tiny sequined boleros partner filmy muslin cocktail gowns. Sequins trim trousers legs and jacket peplums; sequins glitter on spaghetti-strapped tops or are shaped into skin-tight tubes in glittering Broadway colours that are mini-mini and ultra cheeky. Fringes are very popular for trims. Wrought out of silk yarn, they are sometimes used for sexy skirts or to edge huge square shawls draped like sarongs. Fringing can also be composed of beads and decorate the hem of a short jacket.

The afternoon dress returns after a lengthy absence from the fashion scene. Magnificent prints in a mixture of folklore, or sometimes even flower patterns combined with lamé, are astounding in their brilliance. Dresses made of these materials may look simple, but appearances are deceptive. These gowns are subtly draped, often cut on the bias and always bear the handwriting of a directrice par excellence. In Paris there were entire series in Swiss designs to be seen parading



Trouser-suit with spencer jacket in Swiss satin duchesse. A creation for a model of Emmanuelle Khanh, Paris.

in the mountains, people nowadays go on elegant cruises in tropical climes instead (or as well). The "little black dress," which used to be the trump card in the wardrobe of every elegant woman, is being superseded by the many brightly coloured dresses in muslin, chiffon or satin, enlivened by chic brocade or satin jackets.

The new fashion lives on colour and luxurious fabrics. It demands body-awareness since it makes the most of legs, bust and waist. The signs are that, with all this luxury, fashion during this last decade will be very sexy, but also very sporty, too — Publicity Centre for Swiss Textiles.

Life in Jordan has become noisier than 50 years ago

Tone down the volume before the blare splits the eardrums

AMMAN — (J.T.) Life in Jordan is noisier than it was fifty years ago. Car horns, diesel engines, jack hammers, computer printers, power tools, vacuum cleaners, electric razors, electric blenders... most of us are exposed to intense noises on a daily basis. Unfortunately, while the technological instruments which create such noise have made our lives easier and more enjoyable, they have also created major health risks for Jordanians.

The primary health problem resulting from long-term noise exposure is hearing loss. "Although it may not show up on a hearing test for several years, constant long-term exposure to high levels of noise will inevitably cause permanent hearing loss," warns Jerry Friedman, an American Audiologist providing consultation for the new Specialised Audiology Centre (SAC) in Amman. "Two of my goals during my stay in Jordan are to help raise awareness of hearing loss as it exists in this country and to encourage prevention of hearing loss when possible. Fortunately, noise-induced hearing loss is one of the types of hearing impairment which is preventable."

Manal Hamzeh, Director of the National Centre for Speech and Hearing, agrees

with Friedman. She is particularly concerned with people who work in noisy surroundings. "In the United States, hearing loss is the number one occupational health hazard," says Hamzeh. "For this

noise. In Jordan, thousands of people have jobs which involve high levels of noise without any protection."

Although there is no hearing conservation legislation in Jordan, there may be other

measures in order productivity and job satisfaction, and a decrease in sickdays and legal actions taken against employers.

What kind of prevention is possible on such job sites? "First," says Friedman, "one should try to reduce the level of noise whenever possible. This would include everything from turning down Sony Walkmans to placing sound bafflers around occupational machinery which creates noise. Noise is a societal problem and everyone needs to take a role in helping to reduce the noise to which we are all exposed."

Other problems caused by noise

However, at times these measures are not enough to bring the noise down to a permissible level. In these situations, people must wear well-designed hearing protection, such as earplugs or earmuffs, to be completely safe from the health hazards of noise.

In addition to hearing loss, other health problems can be caused by noise. "Studies show correlations between noise exposure and several other health problems, includ-

ing: high blood pressure, tinnitus [ringing sounds in the ears], headaches, muscle tension, ulcers, and neurological disorders," Hamzeh says.

Hearing loss, however, remains the most common problem associated with noise. People who experience an instantaneous burst of noise may suffer immediate permanent hearing loss. However, most noises are not loud enough to cause immediate damage. "This is one of the biggest problems with convincing people about the dangers of noise," says Friedman. "The effects are not immediately obvious, but rather show themselves gradually."

But certain symptoms often precede permanent hearing loss and can serve as a warning. These symptoms include tinnitus and dulness in hearing immediately following an exposure to high noise levels. Initially these symptoms may last only a few minutes. But with repeated exposures, the symptoms will last longer and longer, eventually becoming permanent and irreversible.

The type of hearing loss experienced by people who have been exposed to noise is often misunderstood. "People with noise induced hearing

loss, like those with presbycusis [hearing loss associated with the normal aging process] usually miss only specific frequencies of sound," explains Hamzeh. "This can be very confusing to the person with hearing impairment as well as to people with whom

this 'partial' hearing may lead them to believe that the person hears only when they want to hear. This can cause major communication problems in families which have hearing impaired members." Fortunately, many of the communication difficulties

"One should try to reduce the level of noise whenever possible. This would include everything from turning down Sony Walkmans to placing sound bafflers around occupational machinery which creates noise. Noise is a societal problem and everyone needs to take a role in helping to reduce the noise to which we are all exposed."

they interact. Often, a patient with this type of loss will comment that they know when people are talking, but they cannot always understand everything said. This is because they hear many of the sounds in speech quite well, but miss others completely, depending upon the frequency range of the particular sounds being spoken. For family members and friends,

associated with permanent hearing loss can be overcome with the use of hearing aids. "Twenty years ago it was standard practice to advise people with this type of hearing loss that hearing aids would not help them," says Friedman. "However, technological improvements have greatly enhanced the quality and usefulness of hearing aids for this type of hearing loss."

Additionally, the reduced size of hearing aids in today's market make them cosmetically more acceptable for the hearing impaired consumer.

However, Friedman adds that people should seek appropriate professional care before purchasing hearing aids. "The only way a hearing aid will help is if it is designed for the individual's particular hearing loss. And the only way to do this is to obtain a complete audiologic assessment to determine the exact type and degree of loss in each ear. Ideally, a person with hearing loss will consult a medical doctor to determine if the loss is caused by a medically-correctable condition, and an audiologist to adequately assess the degree and type of hearing loss and to prescribe the most appropriate hearing aid."

Although most people with this type of hearing loss would benefit greatly from the use of hearing aids, there are still no medical or audiological procedures which can repair the damage caused by noise exposure.

"For now," Friedman says, "the best remedy known for this type of hearing loss is prevention."

Project attempts to monitor

eating habits and links

with diet-related illness

Surveys have revealed that many young people have metabolic disorders that could be remedied by a change of diet. The writer looks at what the investigators found. She wrote the story for Frankfurter Rundschau.

Gisela Kretschmar

YOU are what you eat, they say, and in theory, at least, the links between health and nutrition are undeniable.

Unhealthy diets and over-eating are among the most frequent causes of many modern complaints in the category dubbed, in German, "civilisation diseases."

But reliable data on West Germans' eating habits were long unavailable, until 1985, in fact, when the Survey of National Eating Habits began.

This most comprehensive nutritional research project ever undertaken in the Federal Republic of Germany was accompanied by another project known, for short, by its German initials, VERA.

VERA, or Verbundstudie Ernährungserhebung und Risikofaktoren-Analyse, means Joint Eating Habits and Risk Factor Analysis Research Project.

It was aimed at analysing clinically and chemically quantifiable risk factors attributable to the eating habits of some of the people who took part in the full survey.

Between 1985 and 1988 GfK, a market research organisation, polled roughly 25,000 people in over 11,000 households.

The people interviewed outlined their personal views on health and nutrition, on semi-luxuries (such as alcohol and tobacco), drug consumption (medicinal) and on physical activities.

They also made a note of everything they ate and drank for a week. The aim of the survey was not just to ascertain the variety and determining factors of the respondent's overall eating habits.

The findings were also expected to shed light on, say, the danger faced by people in specific age groups or job categories as a result of bad eating habits.

The findings might also, it was felt, reveal links between socio-economic categories

and specific eating habits.

About 2,000 people who took part in the initial survey were singled out for the VERA probe. Between 1986 and 1989 ninety-one blood, urine and hair samples taken from each of them were analysed.

One of the aims was to find out whether there were connections between metabolic disorders, a high blood sugar count or biochemically quantifiable vitamin or mineral deficiencies and specific bad eating habits.

Initial evaluation of the

Twenty-five per cent of men and 29 per cent of women examined were found to have blood cholesterol counts above the danger level, but only two thirds of the men and half the women were aware of the fact.

findings reaffirms the wide range of ongoing nutrition problems. A strikingly high percentage of people polled had no idea how much energy they used in specific activities.

At least half the people questioned were unable to do more than hazard a guess as to the calorie count of most foodstuffs; the other half vastly underrated it.

The eventual findings may not be available for some years, but it is already clear that many people have wide gaps in what they know about nutrition.

An interesting insight into eating habits was provided by a special event that occurred during the survey period: the Chernobyl reactor meltdown.

The resulting nuclear fallout from spring 1986 prompted many people to stop eat-

ing fresh fruit and vegetables and switch to the canned or deep-frozen varieties.

One point the survey reveals is that certain sections of the population in certain parts of the Federal Republic were particularly sensitive in their response to the Chernobyl disaster.

The first findings of the VERA project impressively testify to the heavy burden of food-related risk factors.

One partial evaluation shows smoking, for instance, to pose a serious additional cadmium risk, whereas lead today is a much less serious risk factor than it used to be.

Yet individual people are still found to suffer from lead poisoning. They mostly do so because they come into close contact with lead at work.

Interim evaluation of cholesterol counts shows many young people to suffer from metabolic disorders that could be remedied by change in eating habits.

Twenty-five per cent of men and 29 per cent of women examined were found to have blood cholesterol counts above the danger level, but only two thirds of the men and half the women were aware of the fact.

It will be 1993 before the data compiled are fully evaluated, but individual findings should regularly come to light in the meantime.

The eating habits survey and the VERA project will also provide pointers to further scientific surveys.

Repetition or continuation of projects might make it easier to identify, keep track of and combat food risk factors among the general public and in specific groups.

The first follow-up survey is a pilot project to probe links between cancer and dietary habits. It will be monitored by the German Cancer Research Centre, Heidelberg.

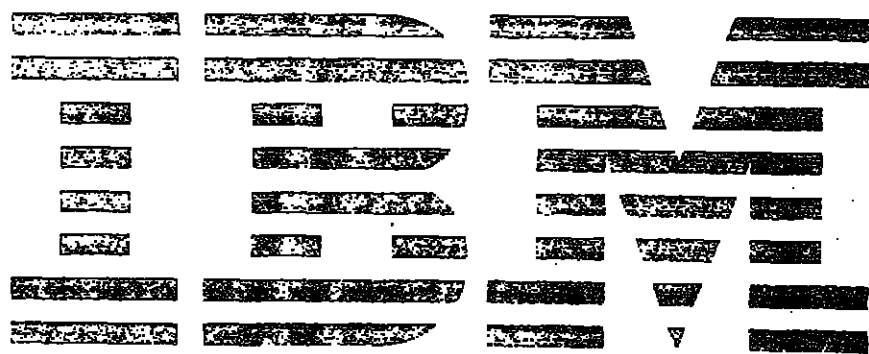
In another project data from the national survey are to be interlinked with nationwide monitoring to determine the extent to which food is polluted by heavy and semi-metals, pesticide residues and other selected environmental chemicals.

The aim is to find out still more about the exposure of the general public to toxins in what they eat and drink.

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Features

Reporter's notebook: Building shells stand in testimony to Iran's disaster

By Alexander Higgins
Associated Press

RUDBAR, Iran — Buildings destroyed in Iran's killer earthquake crumbled and fell in many different ways.

Many buildings stand roofless, and some roofs hang with little beneath.

The three-story community health centre was reduced to its steel frame — the brick between the steel crumbled with each jolt from the earth. A ceiling fan, still suspended from a fragment of the former structure, circles crazily in the open air, driven by the wind. Electricity has been cut off.

At another home, a single wall fell away revealing an interior and furniture like a doll house.

A house with blue-framed windows was rocked back on its foundations so that its second-floor balcony faces the sky.

Some homes just have huge cracks on the walls and glass broken out of windows. Others have a metre-wide hole in the wall where the brick fell out.

People inside their homes were in the greatest danger of being buried, but people outside ran the risk of being hurt or killed by stone from falling buildings or landslides cascading down steep mountains above some of the towns.

Earthquakes travel as waves through the soil and rock and buildings unable to move with the ground crumble as the tremors become intense.

Most of the Iranian buildings destroyed were one or two-storey homes built of brick or unreinforced concrete.

The nearby town of Manjil is virtually a field of rubble. Bricks and stones that were houses scattered in all directions.

In this city of Rudbar on the banks of the Sefid (White) river, most buildings were des-



Victims of the earthquake being transferred to Tehran for medical treatment

troyed and those that survived were seriously damaged.

Step a metre up from the curb that used to be in front of people's store and you will find yourself on its tar roof.

Life in this mountain city about 300 kilometres northwest of Tehran has moved onto the street. The houses are no longer habitable after last week's earthquake.

Large military tents have been set up for people to sleep in. Others sleep in smaller tents or under plastic sheeting tied to trees or iron fences. Even some buses parked near the river are being used for temporary shelter.

Along with the electricity, water has also been cut off. The only supply of running water is a seven and a half centimetre pipe bent over a

basin next to a bridge.

A woman in a black chador (head covering) washes a white bowl and pan with a bar of pink soap.

Most people, exhausted from days of digging for missing relatives and from the loss of loved ones, sit, stand or walk around aimlessly.

Some pick through piles of relief clothing and blankets piled in a storefront.

An empty makeshift hospital run by the Iranian Red Crescent Society remains under a grove of trees on the riverbank. The seriously injured patients have been flown to hospitals in Tehran and Rasht.

People with minor injuries are treated in full view of passersby at impromptu clinics set up on Rudbar's main street. At one clinic, a doctor cleans

a scalp wound of an old man who has been given only the token privacy of a white bed sheet tied chest-high to two green posts.

Nearby, two paramedics stitch up the hand of a man as he lay on a tree-shaded bench beside the destroyed public clinic.

Abu Talab Musavi, a 30-year-old lawyer, won't be able to get back into his office. The building is a crumpled mess.

He has climbed up rubble to the second floor and is reaching through a hole in the wall to throw what he can reach — a couple of cushions and some cloth — to his brother below.

As he moves, rubble and broken plaster slide down revealing the edge of a beautiful red Persian Carpet.

Kiko to wed Japanese prince

By Abi Sekimitsu
Reuter

TOKYO — Her smile flashes from magazine covers. She bows shyly at television cameras spying on her morning jog. Her name makes headlines in every newspaper. One sports tabloid even declared it "Kiko-San week."

Media frenzy over the royal romance has reached a giddy peak, and some of the common folk are laughing all the way to the bank.

On Friday, tall, Oxford-educated Prince Aya, 24, younger son of Japan's Emperor Akihito, will marry the love of his life, 23-year-old Kiko Kawashima, a fellow student and a commoner.

Aya, second-in-line to the Chrysanthemum throne behind unmarried elder brother Naruhito, 30, surprised the public last autumn by announcing his engagement to Kawashima, a graduate student in psychology and daughter of an economics professor.

It was only the second time that a male member of Japan's centuries-old Imperial family had sought and won the hand of a commoner.

Aya's father, Akihito, as crown prince in 1959, broke imperial precedent and married his tennis partner, Michiko, the daughter of a wealthy flour miller.

The demure Kawashima, or "Kiko-San" as she is known in the popular press, met Aya at Tokyo University when she joined a nature-appreciation society founded by the prince himself.

Reporters have combed Mejiro, the district surrounding the campus and now dubbed the "Imperial date course," for any spot where the couple wined, dined or strolled.

Women's weeklies have published dozens of "Aya-Kiko maps" with markers showing every nook and cranny where the lovebirds may have stopped.

From coffee shops where they



Prince Aya and Kiko Kawashima, the prince's commoner fiancée, speak at a news conference announcing their engagement at the Akasaka Palace Sept. 12, 1989.

met to the street crossing where Aya popped the question, young couples hoping some royal magic will rub off on them mix with seasoned palace-watchers to pay homage, maps in hand, to the place where the fairy tale began.

"Business has increased, maybe 20 to 30 per cent," says an employee at a Mejiro Pizzeria that the two used to frequent. "Some people want to ask questions, some are just happy to sit, knowing that they were here."

Tanaka-Ya, a coffee shop where Aya and Kawashima came for Viennese coffee and Chou A La Creme, has seen sales of the creamy cake double, said Manager Katsuhisa Kubota.

"I don't really want to make a big deal of it," adds Kubota, who has added a "royal corner" to his premises adorned with a big red heart. "It'll be over after this year."

Other Royal date destinations are bolder with their marketing. A marine theme park in Kanagawa, near Tokyo, where the pair had their first "official" date after winning imperial approval of their engagement, has a special dolphin and seal show called "Prince's wedding day seal kingdom show."

The park restaurant, where Aya ordered curry with cutlet while Kawashima chose the seafood curry, now offers the two dishes as special set meals, appropriately named "the couple set," at 1,400 yen (over nine dollars) including salad and coffee.

The same marine park sells replicas of the "catfish ring," the engagement band that Kawashima had specially made for her zoologist prince, who calls catfish research his life's work. The nearby aquarium has a special catfish exhibit.

Japan's young royal darlings have sparked other fads, too. The classic navy blue dress and string of pearls that softly spoken Kiko wore for the televised engagement announcement has sent pearl sales rocketing.

"We can't ignore the fact that her television appearance has affected sales," said a spokesman for Mikimoto, the country's highest pearl jewellery retailer. "Kiko-San looks very nice in pearls. It's very encouraging."

Japan's five national television networks will mark the wedding day itself with dawn-to-dusk programmes featuring information and speculation about every aspect of the young couple's lives.

Tokyo weeklies predict the networks will make total profits of 10 billion yen (\$66 million) from advertising and promotional events over the wedding period.

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Arab World economies expand by 5.9 per cent

LONDON (MEED) — The economies of the Arab World expanded by 5.9 per cent in total in 1989, according to estimates by the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

Figures released by the fund show that the combined gross domestic product (GDP) of the 21 states of the Arab League was worth \$383.191 billion in 1989, compared with \$361.910 billion the previous year.

Gulf oil exporting countries showed the strongest rates of economic growth, reflecting the impact of sharply higher oil prices. Saudi Arabia, which has the largest economy in the Arab World, recorded a 9.1 per cent GDP increase. The economies of Kuwait and the UAE expanded by 15.3 per cent and 15.2 per cent, respectively.

Other countries recording double-digit GDP growth in 1989 were Sudan (up 16.2 per cent), Qatar (up 13.3 per cent), Oman (up 12.4 per cent) and Syria (up 10.6 per cent). North Yemen's GDP is estimated to have grown by more than 25 per cent in the year, the highest year-on-year growth rate in the Arab World, reflecting impact of the start of oil production.

Jordan's GDP is estimated to have dropped by 29 per cent, reflecting the 26.4 per cent fall in the value of the dinar against the U.S. dollar in 1989. Other countries estimated to have experienced economic contraction in the year were Algeria (down 9.1 per cent), Somalia (down 28 per cent), Mauritania and Tunisia.

The estimated aggregate dollar value of the output of the Arab World in 1989 is still well below the 1981 peak of \$447.525.5 billion, almost 17 per cent higher than in 1989.

The estimates of the scale of Arab economies show that the dollar value of combined output in 1989 was equivalent to just over 7 per cent of that of the U.S. in the same year.

Data released by AFESD also show that the proportion of Arab GDP accounted for by value added in manufacturing rose steadily in the 1980s. It is estimated to have accounted for 11.76 per cent of the total in 1989. AFESD estimates that Morocco had the highest manufacturing value added to GDP ratio among Arab countries in 1989 at 26 per cent, followed by Syria (19.1 per cent) and Egypt (16.6 per cent).

Arab economies: estimated GDP, 1989

	\$ million	% change since 1988
Saudi Arabia	79,231	9.1
Iraq	58,871	9.7
Algeria	47,186	-9.1
UAE	27,281	15.2
Libya	24,758	1.0
Egypt	24,290	3.2
Morocco	23,709	7.9
Kuwait	23,083	15.3
Syria	17,879	10.6
Sudan	10,113	16.2
Tunisia	9,998	-0.3
Oman	8,532	12.4
North Yemen	7,393	25.2
Oman	6,475	13.3
Bahrain	3,872	7.2
Lebanon	3,600	0.0
Jordan	3,221	-29.0
Somalia	1,214	-28.2
South Yemen	1,128	4.3
Mauritania	987	-1.5
Djibouti	371	4.7
Total	383,191	5.9

Source: Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development, Kuwait, April 1990.

OPEC pressure builds on overproducers

LONDON (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait are coming under intense and unusual public pressure from other Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) states trying to shame them into curbing excess output and thereby help rescue petroleum prices.

OPEC delegation sources said that, with prices down by one-third since the start of the year, cash-strapped Iraq had in particular turned the heat on. "Most pressure is on the Emirates," one Arab oil official said. He said Kuwait, another prominent overproducer, now seemed to be opting for more restraint.

The Iraqis have publicly singled out the UAE as being most to blame for weak prices although their deputy prime minister, Saadoun Hammadi, on Tuesday also accused Kuwait of quota-busting.

Hammadi gave details of what he said was Kuwaiti output for the five months to May ranging

from 300,000 to 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) in excess of its OPEC quota of 1.5 million.

OPEC states rarely speak about each other publicly with such candour. The Iraqi official, who says his country loses a billion dollars a year for each dollar lost on the oil price, was touring Gulf states ahead of OPEC talks in Geneva on July 25.

The talks will try to negotiate new output controls to ease the present glut. OPEC's president, Algerian Oil Minister Sadek Boussena, has also been in the Gulf trying to put together the basic arithmetic of a deal.

Iraq's Hammadi said the UAE's president, Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahyan, responded positively to a briefing on the Iraqi viewpoint and that the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, told him Kuwait was now keeping quota.

OPEC delegation sources say Kuwait is certainly sound-

ing more conciliatory.

They pointed to reports Tuesday that it was reducing the volume which it sells to Japan by up to 30 per cent rather than bow to pressure to undercut Saudi and Iranian prices.

But the sources said it was less clear how flexible the UAE would be, both on cutting output in July and over its quota demands at the forthcoming meeting in Geneva.

According to the Indonesian oil minister, Gimanjar Kartasmita, a limit on total OPEC volume of 22.5 million bpd would be desirable for several months to enable the market to soak up some of the present overhang of excess stocks.

The OPEC delegation sources said Boussena had apparently sounded out the Gulf states on the possibility of a compromise over quotas for Kuwait and the UAE that would allocate them around 1.7 million bpd each.

This is roughly half way be-

tween what OPEC has been ready to give them in the past and what they have been producing.

But Saudi Arabia has yet to indicate, at least publicly, that it would be willing to drop its traditional insistence that its quota be fixed at 24.46 per cent of any total OPEC volume which may be agreed.

This would make it difficult to assign the higher quotas to Kuwait and the UAE and still get everyone in under a ceiling on the OPEC total below around 23.5 million bpd.

Various options

Gimanjar, however, in an interview with Reuters Monday, indicated that OPEC has various options open to it, including that of having one set of production curbs for August-September and a different ceiling for the fourth quarter of the year.

Market analysts say a possi-

ble solution might be to extend the present makeshift accord through September, with some more fine-tuning to ensure that the 13 members continue to strengthen their adherence to it.

The accord has at least succeeded in getting the OPEC total down nearer 23 million bpd, Western industry sources say, after almost 24 million earlier in the year.

Current forecasts of fourth quarter demand suggest OPEC might have a chance of tightening the market if it could stay somewhat under 23 million bpd until end-September and not too far above that through the northern winter.

OPEC's secretariat, for instance, sees a rise in the call on oil from 24 million bpd in the fourth quarter.

And Boussena, back in May, mooted the novel idea of an OPEC output accord covering the final and first quarters.

Norway's oil policy faces test

OSLO (R) — Norway's four-year-old policy of curbing oil output to help the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) support prices faces one of its biggest tests next month — after the restraints are abandoned.

The end of the policy from July 1 means North Sea oil firms will no longer have to pump oil at five per cent below capacity. It should in theory immediately raise output by almost 90,000 barrels per day (bpd) to a record around 1.79 million.

But even Norway admits that its estimate of oil output capacity in the first half 1990 was too high. OPEC countries wonder about the validity of "curbs" based on over-estimates.

Any rises in output may be eliminated in the short term. The main North Sea Oil Workers Union is threatening an indefinite strike in the Norwegian sector from July 1 over a pay

dispute, while several fields plan summer maintenance closures.

Oil Minister Eivind Reiten said he expected Norway's output in the second half of 1990 would rise to around 1.70 million bpd from an average of just above 1.60 million in the first half.

The figures are well short of the 1.79 million bpd the ministry forecast last December as production capacity for the first half of 1990. With a five per cent cut, production in the first six months of 1990 was meant to be 1.70 million.

First half production capacity "might have been a slight over-estimate but it's always hard to project the amount exactly and there have been problems at the Gulfsaks field," he said.

Norway is the biggest West European producer after Britain. Sources at several oil firms said companies often submitted optimistic output forecasts to the Norwegian authorities for

approval, hoping any curbs would still mean they could pump at full capacity.

"The cuts are mainly a sign of political will to OPEC," one oil company official said. "Quotas are also given on the assumption that all wells work properly, which isn't realistic."

Reiten said the policy had helped stabilise the market. He noted several fields have had to close briefly after exceeding quotas set since restraints were introduced in 1986.

In a poll of oil companies, Norsk Hydro was the only firm expecting a dramatic rise in output in the second half.

Statoil spokesman Arild Steine said production from fields operated by the company "will rise in the second half of 1990, but it's hard to say what the increases will be overall."

Among fields operated by Statoil is Statfjord, the biggest oil-field in the North Sea.

Morocco, IMF reach accord

NEW YORK (R) — The government of Morocco has reached agreement in principle with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under which the fund will provide the country with a \$130 million loan over nine months, monetary sources said.

The loan is intended to be an interim standby agreement until a longer and more comprehensive IMF lending programme is put in place, the monetary sources said.

The loan must now be approved by the IMF's board, which routinely meets three times a week. Sources estimate that approval of the loan will come in the latter half of July. "This is an interim standby loan that precedes a medium-term, or three year loan agreement," a monetary source said.

Negotiations on an extended fund facility (EFF) are underway between Morocco and the IMF, the source said.

He said it is possible the EFF

will be provided before the lapse of the nine-month standby loan.

"You can assume that EFF will be in the range of approximately \$130 million a year for three years," the source added.

An EFF agreement is necessary for Morocco to use official resources — from the IMF, the World Bank and sovereign governments, most likely France — to reduce its debt in a programme arranged by its commercial bank lenders.

Morocco has been billed as one of the beneficiaries of U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's 15-month old debt reduction initiative. Four other countries, including Mexico, the developing world's second heaviest debtor, have participated in the initiative.

Separately, U.S. bankers said that documents relating to the rescheduling of Morocco's \$3.2 billion external debt owed to commercial banks will be

sent to the country's several hundred lenders in the next few days.

On April 10, Morocco and its leading creditor banks agreed to reschedule the entire stock of debt incurred prior to Sept. 9, 1983.

The rescheduling reduces the burden of debt by reducing the interest paid to 13/16 per cent over money market rates from the current average of about 1-3/8 per cent over money market rates.

Once an EFF is in place, banks will have the option of tendering their outstanding debt to Morocco for a buyback, providing new loans or exchanging debt for bonds that will be partially guaranteed by international lending agencies or sovereign government-provided money.

Bankers have routinely scoffed at efforts to cut a country's debt without the enhancements provided by the IMF, World Bank and other agencies.

Bush postpones sale of offshore oil leases

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush Tuesday put vast offshore tracts off the U.S. east and west coasts out of bounds to oil and gas development through the end of the century in a decision that pleased most environmentalists but angered the oil industry.

"The combined effect of these decisions is that the coast of southwest Florida and more than 99 per cent of the California coast will be off-limits to oil and gas leasing and development until after the year 2000," Bush said in a statement.

Bush, a former Texas oilman involved in offshore drilling operations, said he decided on the politically sensitive move because "further steps to protect the environment are needed."

The key areas at issue included two lease areas off northern and southern California and one off Florida. The three main lease areas are estimated to contain up to 4.7 billion barrels of oil and huge amounts of natural gas. The United States now burns over 17 million barrels each day.

Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan denied at a news conference that politics played a role in the decision to reverse the Reagan administration's policy in favour of full-scale offshore development. Public opinion polls in both states showed strong opposition to offshore drilling.

But Republican Senator Pete Wilson, running for election as governor of California this fall, was clearly relieved. "What the president has done is given us an environmental decision worthy of his being called an environmental president," Wilson said.

Bush gambles as he backs off 'read-my-lips' pledge

By Rich Miller
Reuters

WASHINGTON — President George Bush has put his political credibility on the line by backing down on his "read-my-lips" promise not to raise taxes, but he may have put the U.S. economy at risk as well.

With the economy limping along, economists say a tax increase could rob consumers of much-needed spending power.

"It could push us into recession," Boston Company chief economist Allen Sinai said.

The same economists say Bush, who rammed home his no-new-tax pledge during the 1988 presidential election with the words "read-my-lips," had little choice.

Faced with the possibility of mandatory spending cuts of nearly \$100 billion under the Gramm Rudman law, the president had to act to put the budget negotiations on track or risk a virtual shutdown of the government.

"We were scared," said one administration official. "It's a serious threat."

Without policy changes the budget deficit for the year starting on Oct. 1 is expected to touch \$160 billion.

That is well above the \$64 billion target set by the Gramm Rudman law and doesn't include the costs of bailing out the U.S. savings and loans industry, which could push the deficit up to \$230 billion.

Economists say the administration decided to take the medicine now in the hopes that the economic fall-out will be forgotten by the next presidential election in 1992.

"It's better to do it in 1990 than in 1992," said Marco Babic, an economist with Evans Economics.

Stephen Bell, managing director at Salomon Brothers, called Bush's decision a "very good strategic move" because it puts the onus for reducing the deficit back on the rival Democratic Party and forces

them to confront unpopular spending cuts.

Just as it took the black Monday crash of global stock markets to force policymakers to come to grips with the budget deficit in 1987, it has taken the near collapse of the U.S. savings and loan industry to do it this time around.

"The thrift crisis has focused attention on the budget deficit," said John Williams, managing director of Bankers Trust.

To help meet the rising costs of the thrift bailout the treasury has been forced to borrow more in the credit markets, scaring investors and putting upward pressure on interest rates.

In the past year, the U.S. administration has doubled its estimate of the cost of the bailout. U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady recently put the figure, without interest, at as much as \$130 billion.

"Investors don't like sur-

prises," said Scott Pardee, chairman of Yamaichi International (America), the American subsidiary of Yamaichi Securities in Tokyo.

"My job is trying to sell U.S. securities to Japanese investors," he said earlier this month.

"They are now talking seriously about... the fiscal deficit and using that as one of the reasons they have held back."

Instead of buying American, Pardee said some of his Japanese customers are diversifying into German and French securities.

After years of living off the savings of Japanese and other foreign investors, economists say Washington is being forced to come to grips with its burgeoning budget deficit.

The opening up of Eastern Europe has touched off a worldwide scramble for scarce savings that in the past the United States could take for granted.

THE Daily Crossword by Alvin L. Becker

ACROSS

- 1 "L" (TV show)
- 5 Go with the flow
- 10 — delay
- 14 Coordinate
- 15 Ransack
- 16 Sift out
- 17 Purpose
- 18 McEnroe's
- 19 Pivot
- 20 Interludes
- 21 Santa's reindeer
- 22 Prohibitionist
- 23 Litan
- 24 "Ivanhoe" heroine
- 25 Heavy jacket
- 26 Sign: abbr.
- 27 "To fetch" — of water
- 33 Member of 44A
- 34 Eureka!
- 35 Meal follower
- 41 Based: abbr.
- 42 Ms. Meara
- 43 Relationship
- 44 Animal group
- 45 Arbitrator
- 46 Climbed
- 50 Magic charm
- 52 Sign: abbr.
- 53 Erect
- 54 More roomy
- 56 Like — of bricks
- 57 Get up
- 58 Environs
- 62 Boxing milieu
- 63 Queues
- 64 Element
- 65 Before deep or high
- 66 Cotton wads
- 67 Leisure

DOWN

- 1 Mornings
- 2 Meadow
- 3 Inquire
- 4 Sharpen
- 5 More pretentious
- 6 Hunt goddess
- 7 Meal follower
- 8 And
- 9 Pro
- 10 City section
- 11 Feather
- 12 Temperess
- 13 Busybody
- 21 Puppets
- 22 Intimidate
- 23 Hinge loosely
- 24 Items
- 25 Fermenting agent
- 27 Indian queen
- 29 In good shape
- 31 Traveled
- 33 Arrive
- 34 Proof: loss
- 35 Hirsute
- 36 " — lovely as a tree"
- 38 Foray
- 39 Fr. military
- 40 Circuit
- 44 Deep dive
- 45 Agt.
- 46 Except
- 47 Light flash
- 48 Interrupt
- 49 Make amends
- 51 Unexpected result
- 54 Solo
- 55 Tear down
- 57 Clerk's vestment
- 59 Inlet
- 60 Nav. off.
- 61 Unreturnable serve

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

- 1 L
- 5 Flow
- 10 Delay
- 14 Coordinate
- 15 Ransack
- 16 Sift out
- 17 Purpose
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- 19 Pivot
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- 61 Unreturnable serve

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(Answers Monday)

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Butragueno personifies Spain's loss

VERONA (R) — His wings clipped, Emilio Butragueno trooping sadly off the field to be substituted, personified Spain's failure at the World Cup.

Spain's squad had talent in abundance but never managed to harness it. Accused of being lucky to survive the first round, their good fortune ran out against Yugoslavia.

"We were unlucky. We had chances but we missed them and when I hit the post I realised that it just was not going to be our day," said Butragueno, dubbed "El Buitre" (the vulture).

The 26-year-old Real Madrid striker, Spain's captain, was brought off immediately after Dragan Stojkovic opened the scoring in Yugoslavia's 2-1 victory Tuesday.

It was the third successive match that Suarez had substituted Butragueno. In 50 other international games, he had been pulled off the pitch only once before.

The manager explained that he replaced Butragueno with Rafa Paz to create more space on the left and provide more crosses for the tall central striker Julio Salinas.

Within five minutes, Salinas had equalised, temporarily renewing Spain's slender hopes that they might live to fight another day.

That was little consolation for Butragueno, whose ability to find the net had deserted him and already reduced Spain's World Cup chances.

"The substitution? I didn't ask for it but it's the coach's right to decide who should be on the field," said Butragueno, not allowing disappointment to lead him into an uncharacteristic public outburst.

Butragueno failed to score in Spain's four World Cup matches. His increasing frustration at the goal famine showed in gestures of exasperation Tuesday as chances went begging or promising moves were shut down by the efficient Yugoslav defence.

With the match still scoreless, Butragueno finally broke free from his tight marking only to head against the post with the goalkeeper well beaten.

The disappointed Spaniard wished the ground could have swallowed him up.

"That incident summed up a painful afternoon," he said. "Had the ball gone in, the game would have changed completely."

England reaches last eight

BOLOGNA (R) — Tactical dinosaurs or not, England are through to the World Cup quarter-finals.

After going through the qualifying programme without conceding a goal, they have let in only one in four matches in the finals and have the look of a team which will be extremely difficult to beat.

They reached the last eight Tuesday with a 1-0 extra time triumph over Belgium, whose team play was always superior and more imaginative.

The Belgians, employing a flexible system of play which often saw them attacking across the full breadth of the pitch, were entirely out of luck and coach Guy Thys had many sympathisers when he said they had dominated three quarters of the game without reward.

A spectacular goal, volleyed in by substitute David Platt in the last minute of extra time, provided England's victory after two hours of fierce physical combat had left them with only nine fit players.

McEnroe crashes out of Wimbledon

LONDON (R) — Fallen star John McEnroe was left contemplating an uncertain tennis future as he and four other men's seeds were blown out of Wimbledon in the first round Tuesday.

Three-times champion McEnroe led the dismal procession, humbled 7-5 6-4 6-4 by fellow American Derek Rostagno, ranked 129 in the world, on centre court, scene of so many of his past triumphs.

He was joined on the sidelines by newly crowned French Open champion Andre Agassi of Ecuador, Americans Tim Mayotte and Pete Sampras and Czechoslovak Petr Korda as low-ranked players conspired to make a mockery of the seedings.

Joined with Yannick Noah's defeat Monday, it is the first time since Wimbledon began seeding in 1927 that six seeded men's players have lost in the first round.

The women's draw was not immune from upsets either with sixth seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain and Switzerland's Manuela Maleeva, seeded eighth, passing through the exit door.

Inevitably it was the fourth-seeded McEnroe's departure which caused the biggest waves, but the 31-year-old American denied the result spelt the effective end of his remarkable career.

"I've got to try and get my act together. There's a lot of act to get together," he said. "If I take a couple of steps in the wrong direction I'll be out of the game in six months. But I think I'll be back. I'd like to think this is just the beginning," he added.

The 24-year-old Rostagno, a laid-back Californian who travels to tournaments in a Volkswagen camper van, more than atoned for his personal nightmare at last year's U.S. Open when he surrendered two match points — one on a net cord — against eventual title winner Boris Becker.

Playing with more certainty than his opponent, he kept his

nerve at key moments, including a four-minute stoppage when both players queried a line call, to wrap up victory in two hours 22 minutes.

Fifth seed Gomez, still recovering from the celebrations in his native Ecuador that followed his success in Paris earlier this month, also disappeared in straight sets against American Jim Grabb. He is the first reigning French Open champion to lose in the first round at Wimbledon since Mats Wilander in 1985.

Mayotte, seeded sixth but unlike Gomez a grass court specialist, crashed out 4-6 7-6 7-5 6-3 to South African Gary Muller.

Both sides played well, both made chances and they (Belgium) hit the post twice," said England manager Bobby Robson. "It was that sort of game."

"But we finished with only nine fit men. Both Terry Butcher and Des Walker are injured and unfortunately there is a strong chance that they will be out for the next match. Walker did well to finish the game," he said.

Butcher aggravated a knee injury that has dogged him throughout the tournament while Walker was tackled heavily by Belgium substitute Nico Claessen and further hurt the bruised left fibula which had made him doubtful for the match.

Despite the injuries, England showed great team spirit, courage and durability in surviving Belgium's greater finesse and preventing the match from being decided by a penalty shoot-out.

Platt, an attacking midfielder, was brought on to replace Steve McMahon after 72 minutes in a bid to try to turn the course of the game. Few imagined he would do

so in such fashion by striking his first goal for England.

The 100th goal of the tournament was created by England's outstanding player Paul Gascoigne whose work rate and invention enabled him to surge forward on a run which took him past Belgian defender Eric Gerets and towards the penalty area.

Gerets conceded a free kick when he pushed the England player and Gascoigne lofted the ball over Belgium's defence to Platt who scored with a swivelling right-foot volley.

The goal, however, was out of context with a match packed with incident but more memorable for its uncompromising physical commitment, particularly from England, than for its artistry.

England, using the sweeper system introduced by Robson against the Netherlands in the first round, looked rock solid in defence except on two occasions when Jan Ceulemans and later Enzo Scifo beat goalkeeper Peter Shilton but saw their shots rebound off the right-hand post.

FIFA affirms suspension decisions

ROME (AP) — FIFA Wednesday affirmed the one-game suspension for West German striker Rudi Voeller and slapped Dutch defender Frank Rijkaard with a three-game ban for their angry exchange at a World Cup match.

The international soccer federation also confirmed the yellow card for West German midfielder Lothar Matthaeus, who was booked for wasting time in West Germany's 2-1 victory over the Netherlands in Milan Sunday.

"The case is closed now. Let's concentrate on the quarterfinal against Czechoslovakia," said Voeller, who won't be in the lineup for Sunday's match in Milan.

Voeller and Rijkaard must also pay fines of 20,000 Swiss francs (\$14,300) apiece for being sent off in the second-round match. They were involved in a heated exchange of words after a hard-tackle near the Dutch goal early in the game. Rijkaard then spat at Voeller as they were leaving the field.

FIFA listed "rough play" as the official reason for Voeller's red card while Rijkaard was cited for "violent conduct."

The Netherlands was ousted from the World Cup by their loss to West Germany. The three-game ban on Rijkaard will apply to future Dutch international matches.

Broken dreams, dull soccer mar finals of World Cup

ROME (R) — The World Cup began a three-day respite Wednesday after 19 days of too many broken dreams and too much stultifying soccer.

The second round knockout was expected to provide the heady action needed to breathe life and passion into the tournament following the disappointments of the group matches.

It manifestly did not. Only 13 normal time goals were scored in the eight games and only three teams — Italy, West Germany and Czechoslovakia — moved into the quarter-finals with any measure of conviction.

With the ambitions of pre-tournament favourites Brazil and the Netherlands shattered, fans' hopes of a World Cup to fire the imagination are already fading fast.

A quarter-final line-up of Italy V Ireland, Argentina V Yugoslavia, West Germany V Czechoslovakia and England V Cameroon is hardly the stuff of which dreams are made.

The 1986 finals in Mexico had a quartet whose skill, artistry and thirst for adventure brought together all the ingredients for a great competition — thrills, emotions and glory, even in defeat.

Brazil, the Soviet Union, France and Denmark may not have won the World Cup — none of them even reached the final — but they were the essence of its success.

Add the dash of genius provided by a Diego Maradona at the summit of his art and any fans recipe for soccer satisfaction was complete.

Four years on, the hunger pains for some appetising football are gnawing at the stomach. The exit of Brazil, at the hands of a vastly inferior Argentina and a half-fit Maradona functioning only in flashes, has left a hole it is impossible to fill.

The Soviets red machine has already misfired and been taken home for repairs while France and Denmark failed to qualify and were unable to turn up for the party. They are sadly missed.

The Dutch, who could and should have introduced a touch of magic with their enviable array of stars in Ruud Gullit, Marco Van Basten, Frank Rijkaard and Ronald Koeman, were the biggest flops of all.

The sweet orange style which delighted when they won the European title two years ago turned as sour as bitter lemon and they were barely a match for a confident West Germany.

If Cameroon tried to create a fairy tale by becoming the first African country to reach the last eight, the storyline has not always been suitable for younger viewers.

Much of their success was achieved by the ruthless hacking down of opponents as 115 fouls, 11 yellow cards and two dismis-

sals in four games amply demonstrates. They will pay the price in the quarter-finals with four of their team suspended.

But they threw up some welcome relief in the form of the tournaments most unlikely hero, 38-year-old Roger Milla, fresh from 12 months or retirement in the Indian Ocean island of Reunion. With his four goals, he scored after coming on as a substitute, he showed the class of a thoroughbred striker.

There have not been too many others around though Italy's goal king Salvatore Schillaci was almost equally improbable candidate for the spotlight.

The swarthy Sicilian with the close-cropped hair looked as if he might have stepped out of a mafia movie but his three beautifully executed goals have made him the toast of Italy.

The hosts, with four wins out of four and no goals conceded, have been one of only two teams playing soccer of the quality required to nurture serious hopes of the title.

The other is West Germany whose brand of attacking football plotted by Lothar Matthaeus and Pierre Littbarski and executed by Juergen Klinsmann and Rudi Voeller has been heart-warming.

If the World Cup is to be rescued, these two sides must meet in the final on July 8 to repeat their 1982 clash in Madrid which Italy won 3-1.

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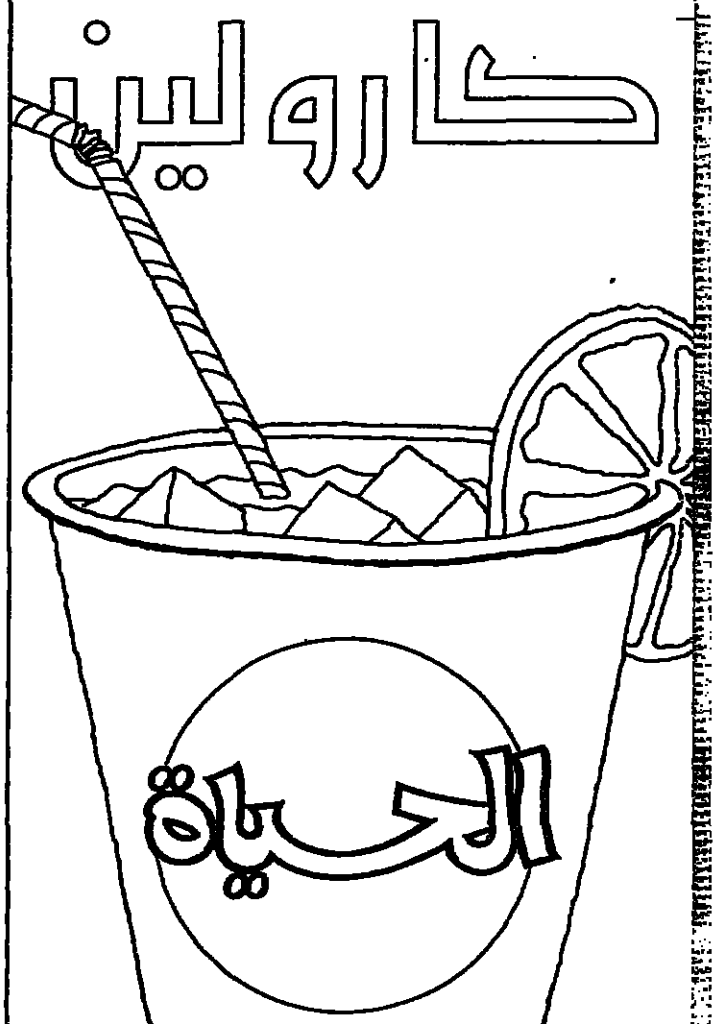
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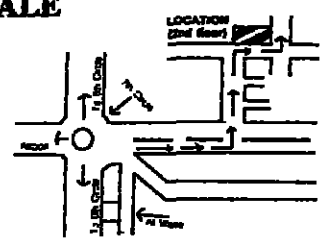
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Soviet party may hold congress — Medvedev

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet ideology chief Vadim Medvedev said Wednesday next week's Communist Party congress, which is likely to pit reformers against hardliners, would most probably go ahead despite calls for a delay.

Medvedev told a news conference the party's policy-setting Central Committee would make a final decision at the end of the week but he said he believed the congress would take place as planned.

"It has turned out that many leaders in republics and regions were in favour of sticking to the dates already established. This is the predominant opinion in the party," he said.

"From my point of view, the congress will take place from July 2."

The congress, the 28th of the national party, would be the first since 1986 when party leader and now also state President Mikhail Gorbachev launched his "perestroika" programme.

Earlier, a spokesman for the 250-member Central Committee said he expected the body would meet in a plenum Friday.

Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, an outspoken opponent of Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, said Tuesday he expected there would be hot debate between radicals and conservatives at the plenum.

Hardliners are in full cry after taking control of the new Russian Communist Party last week.

The founding congress of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, the largest and most influential of the Soviet Union's 15 republics, brought emotional criticism of reformers in the party and impassioned attacks on Gorbachev and "perestroika."

2 die in Kashmir during clashes with separatists

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Two civilians were killed and Indian security forces set 25 shops ablaze in a Kashmir Valley town in clashes with separatist militants, local police sources said Wednesday.

Militants opened fire on the Indian forces from shops in Sopore, 60 kilometres west of the summer capital, Srinagar, while the paramilitary troops were making house-to-house searches Tuesday, the sources said.

Two civilians were shot dead and one injured in the ensuing gunbattle and paramilitary troops set the shops on fire to try to flush out the militants, the sources in the Jammu and Kashmir state police force said.

"The shops burned for two hours before security forces allowed the fire brigade to move in, they said. By then the buildings were gutted. A curfew was imposed on Sopore and the army was called in after the clashes."

Paramilitary forces opened fire in a crowded residential area of Srinagar's old city Wednesday after they were attacked by militants, police said. The gunbattle lasted 30 minutes and there were no immediate reports of casualties.

India poured security forces into Kashmir in January when a militant campaign for Kashmir's independence gathered mass support.

Burmese army forces thousands out of Pagan

BANGKOK (R) — Burma's military authorities, who have evacuated hundreds of thousands of people from major cities, are forcing thousands more to leave Pagan, an ancient landmark and the country's most popular tourist attraction, visitors said Wednesday.

No official reason was given for the latest expulsion, which precedes the opening of the ancient city to direct tourist flights from Thailand next month.

"The main strip of the town has just been emptied," one foreign businessman said.

The army government, which has ruled Burma under tough martial law since crushing street protests in 1988, has in the name of progress forced up to 500,000 people out of Rangoon and Mandalay into fields outside the city.

Others have been jailed for dissent or forced into portering arms for government forces fighting in remote insurgent areas.

Government officials have said the relocation, begun in 1985 but accelerated during army rule, would ease congestion in the cities and give good housing to slum-dwellers and vagrants.

The new towns, most of them located 20 to 30 kilometres outside Rangoon and other cities, have basic facilities. But residents said they were forced to leave

"The Central Committee and the (ruling) politburo have fallen behind events, most of all in reforming the CPSU (party) itself. All too often they worked by the method of trial and error," the document said.

Party spokesman Alexander Lebedev said he believed debate on a postponement had started in the politburo, the party's inner cabinet which is chaired by Gorbachev but likely to disappear under new statutes due to be agreed at the congress.

Gorbachev has the difficult task of holding his conservative wing in check while warding off the breakaway by radicals.

Russian Communists supply about 60 per cent of the delegates to the national congress.

With delegates elected in outlying republics, such as Uzbekistan in Central Asia, they will build a strong core of conservatives who want to retain a traditional Communist system.

Asked about threats by radicals to leave the party, Medvedev said it might be a good idea to allow some individuals to leave.

"This does not necessarily mean a split. What we must try to avoid is a split from the top to the bottom," he said.

The Democratic Platform (DP) faction has threatened to form a rival party if Communists refuse to endorse radical reforms. Leading DP members hope this will form the nucleus of a new opposition.

Referring to one key DP demand that the party be stripped of direct influence in the armed forces, Medvedev said he believed political bodies could retain a role there. But they would concentrate on patriotic education and discipline, he said.

Liberian troops open fire at protesters

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Soldiers fired into the air Wednesday to disperse thousands of protesters demanding the resignation of President Samuel Doe, and shooting continued in the capital more than an hour later.

Some witnesses said the soldiers fired at demonstrators and they saw several fall. Reporters who sought shelter in a shanty town near the Barclay Training Centre Barracks where the shooting started heard numerous commands for a ceasefire followed by bursts of gunfire from U.S.-made M-16 rifles and screams from protesters and other civilians trying to flee.

The sounds of gunshots could be heard all over Monrovia, a capital that is threatened by rebels who also demand Doe's ouster and who are just 25 kilometres away.

Some of the shots Wednesday came from the plush Mamba Point suburb where several embassies are located including those of the United States, Britain, Italy and France.

A few hundred metres from the U.S. embassy, reporters watched soldiers commander two cars and drive up and down the street, leaning out of the windows and a sunroof, firing occasional shots into the air.

The march was organised by the Citizens' Committee for Democracy and Peace, grouping student union and several other trade unions and civic organisations.

On Tuesday, armed soldiers stopped some 5,000 hymn-singing peace marchers from passing the presidential mansion in their protest against Doe.

Tuesday's demonstration was the first in the capital calling for the resignation of the 38-year-old military leader, who has agreed under pressure not to run for re-election next year.

Doe has refused the rebel demand that he resign immediately.

The rebels, led by former Doe aide Charles Taylor, have refused to return to peace talks which were scheduled to go into a second round Monday in Freetown, capital of neighbouring Sierra Leone. The rebels have boasted that they can capture Monrovia within 12 hours, although there have been no indications they will try to make good their claim.

The Liberian Council of Churches and National Muslim Council, which were mediating the peace talks, issued a statement calling for the warring sides to meet.

It also repeated an appeal made two weeks ago at a first peace march for the United States and the United Nations "to directly intervene now to prevent further massive destruction of life."

Bao, director of the Research

Cambodian rebels overrun towns

BANGKOK (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas have made some of their biggest gains in 11 years of fighting in Cambodia, overrunning towns and forcing the evacuation of thousands of civilians, diplomats said Wednesday.

They said widening attacks by the ultra-leftist army in recent weeks were stretching government forces already hampered by serious political infighting in Phnom Penh.

"The Phnom Penh government is in danger of falling apart," said one diplomat.

The Khmer Rouge, the most powerful of three guerrilla factions, has attacked villages and towns, some of them on key roads, deep inside the impoverished Indochinese country.

Diplomats said the war, although still claiming relatively few casualties, had recently affected more civilians and further beleaguered the government.

During a recent guerrilla siege Kompong Thom north of the capital, they said, the government for the first time resorted to aerial bombing after heavy fighting in the city itself.

The Hun Sen government, installed by Hanoi after its 1978 invasion but since last year surviving without the presence of Vietnamese troops, said that in the past month it foiled a coup attempt by dissident elements inside the government.

Diplomats said the Phnom Penh government, despite finding growing sympathy in the West in the face of a growing threat from the Khmer Rouge, was looking increasingly shaky because of factional disputes and military setbacks.

The Khmer Rouge is armed by China but is part of a Western-sponsored guerrilla coalition including non-Communist groups under Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Son Sann. The Khmer Rouge is widely blamed for the deaths of one million Cambodians during its 1975-1978 rule.

Diplomats and guerrilla leaders said the Khmer Rouge had a deliberate policy of occupying urban areas or inflicting heavy civilian casualties, but of winning popular support and showing residents the government could not protect them.

"Their real intention is not to keep the cities. They could do what they want but they want to keep a low profile," former Premier Son Sann told reporters Wednesday.

Diplomats said government troops total 50,000, outnumbering the better-trained and disciplined Khmer Rouge fighters two to one.

Red Cross officials in Phnom Penh have said at least 25,000 refugees are on the move from fighting in Kampot, Kompong Speu, Kompong Chhnang and Kompong Thom. Some reports indicated the government had forced them out of guerrilla-held areas but others said they were fleeing rocket attacks.

The government and its Vietnamese backers have reported fighting in Battambang and Banteay Meanchey provinces in the north and northwest. They said Kompong Thom, on one of two main routes across the country, was briefly held by the guerrillas 10 days ago.

HONG KONG (Agencies) — A key adviser to former Chinese Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang has been released from prison after an investigation of his role in the pro-democracy movement, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Bao Tong, the former private secretary to Zhao who headed a think tank on restructuring China's political system, was released from maximum security Qincheng Prison last month and is now under house arrest in Peking, the English-language South China Morning Post reported.

The report, quoting unnamed sources in Peking, said authorities have yet to decide what to do with Bao.

Amnesty International reported that Bao was arrested on May 28, 1989, about one week before China's conservative leaders ordered the military to crush the pro-democracy movement.

Zhao, who was sympathetic to some of the demands of students protesting for greater freedom, was dismissed from all his party posts on June 24, 1989. He was accused of "supporting the turmoil," a reference to the protests, and of splitting the Communist Party.

Zhao is believed to be living under house arrest in central Peking. He has not been seen in public since last May.

Bao, director of the Research

French opposition parties form alliance

PARIS (AP) — France's two main political opposition groups have decided to form an alliance and present a single presidential candidate in 1995.

The agreement between the conservative Rally for the Republic (RPR) and the Union for French Democracy (UDF), a center-right coalition, will avoid "fratricidal battles" in the 1995 election, said RPR's leader, former Premier Jacques Chirac.

The groups said their confederation, called the Union for France, will choose a presidential candidate through a series of American-style primaries culminating in a national convention.

Chirac and former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, head of the UDF, said the confederation would exclude any alliances with the extreme-right National Front or the governing Socialist Party.

"Each movement will retain its personality" within the confederation, Chirac said.

The agreement was reached by a coordinating committee of the two groups, presided over by Chirac and Giscard d'Estaing.

Polls have indicated that voters would prefer a single rightist candidate to counter the governing Socialists. An effort in this direction was made with the recent creation of the United Force, a grouping of RPR and UDF leaders, some of whom

would like to see a single conservative party.

The goal of the Union for France, to be run by a 30-member political bureau, is to present a "common political project" and back a common candidate, Chirac said.

"Whatever the circumstances, this confederation will back only candidates who share the same political and moral values," said Chirac.

The RPR recently suspended a member, Grenoble Mayor Alain Carignon, for suggesting voters opt for the Socialist candidate in a by-election against a National Front candidate. RPR leaders had called on voters to abstain.

Few jobs await East German soldiers as country fades away

EAST BERLIN (R) — With East Germany fading into history, the once proud National People's Army (NVA) is casting about for a reason to exist and racing to prepare redundant soldiers for civilian life.

The former Communist state is to be absorbed by West Germany in unity elections planned for December.

Retraining programmes have begun for soldiers who can no longer count on state sinecures after active duty.

Organisers say it is the least that can be done with no one sure if the NVA will survive unification. But it may be too little late as soldiers will be entering a new free market flooded with unemployed skilled workers.

"There is deep anxiety throughout the NVA because the future is a black. We are pressing the politicians to tell us the consequences of unification," said army Colonel Eckhard Nickel, head of the NVA's fledgling Soldiers' Union.

On Monday and Tuesday, government air force planes fire-bombed and strafed rebel positions around a strategic 200-year-old fort in the northern city of Jaffna, the rebel stronghold. A rebel statement claimed hundreds of buildings had been set on fire and that civilians were killed in the raids.

Military officials said Sri Lanka will shortly receive six more Italian-made ground attack aircraft to bolster the air force's ability to bomb and strafe rebel targets.

The Sri Marchette aircraft will

join a fleet of four other similar planes now in active combat, pounding positions mostly in the rebel controlled north.

Sri Lanka is currently spending about 10 per cent of budget of 65.9 billion rupees (\$1.7 billion) on defence.

So far at least 1,626 combatants have died since the civil war recommenced on June 11. Fighting started after a Tamil man claimed he was manhandled by Sinhalese police. Tamil Tiger guerrillas responded by attacking police stations in the east.

Chinese president undergoes surgery

PEKING (R) — Chinese President Yang Shangkun is in good condition following surgery for acute appendicitis, the official New China News Agency reported Wednesday.

It was the first official word on the health of the 83-year-old president, who failed to attend a meeting with visiting Chadian President Hissene Habre.

The agency based its report on an announcement by Vice President Wang Zhen, who filled in for Yang.

"Wang said China's political situation is stable," the news agency said.

Yang, a military strongman, has been closely linked to the decision to impose martial law in the Chinese capital last May.

He appeared alongside hardline Premier Li Peng to defend the decision.

Despite his advanced age, Yang seemed the healthiest of leaders. He made an 18-day tour of five Latin American countries last month, travelling with his personal doctor.

Latin American diplomats said he appeared at the time in robust health.

"He looked very good in body and mind," said a diplomat who accompanied him during part of his tour. "We had a barbecue and he had a huge appetite."

Yang, the second most senior man on the Communist Party's

powerful Central Military Commission, has been one of the few people to rival paramount leader Deng Xiaoping.

The 85-year-old Deng stepped down as head of the commission last November, making way for his handpicked successor, party chief Jiang Zemin.

Western diplomats and party sources said at the time Deng had wanted Yang to step aside as well to avoid any challenge to his protégé, who has no military experience.

Yang, however, managed to consolidate his power, inheriting the first vice-chairman's post, vacated by the disgraced former party chief Zhao Ziyang.

Sri Lanka hunts Tamil rebels

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Government security forces detained hundreds of Tamil youth in Sri Lanka's capital Wednesday in sweeps for guerrillas who reportedly have infiltrated the city.

Military officials meanwhile called on 2,500 Tamil Tiger rebels believed trapped in an eastern jungle to surrender or risk an intensive air attack.

The Tigers are "on the retreat on all fronts... they are a spent force now," said Army Commander General Hamilton Wanasinghe.

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Police find stolen Venice church paintings

VENICE (R) — Police have recovered a priceless 18th century painting stolen from a Venice church in a night burglary last week. The painting by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, considered the last of the great Venetian artists, was found in a flat near the church of San Stae on the Grand Canal from which it was taken last Thursday night. The canvas had been cut from its frame. Police detained a 30-year-old man and charged him with theft. They said that thieves had crept along rooftops, forced open an iron grating, and lowered themselves to the floor down a 10-metre rope. The painting, one of Tiepolo's early works, depicts the martyrdom of St. Bartholomew.

Non-KGB unit guards Yeltsin

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has said responsibility for his protection was being taken out of the hands of the KGB and a special unit was being set up to guard him. Yeltsin, a strong critic of the KGB security police, said the Russian parliament had decided to set up the unit. "We don't need thousands of people even taking into account that the work is around the clock. We will need 10... (in) a special unit not subordinate to the KGB," he said in reply to a question. "The KGB, a vast apparatus involved in security operations in the Soviet Union and espionage overseas, is responsible for the protection of senior politicians and other public figures. But Yeltsin has made it plain he has little confidence in the organisation and frequently called for radical reforms and an end to direct Communist Party control.

Paris Opera ticket price soars

PARIS (AP) — The price of tickets at the new Paris Opera, planned to bring opera to a broad public at affordable rates, will rise sharply in September. The cheapest seats — now 50 francs (\$9) — will double in price, while the most expensive ones will jump from 370 francs to 520 francs (\$66 to \$93). "It's a question of bringing in money," Opera President Pierre Berge, was quoted as saying in an interview published over the weekend in Le Figaro magazine. Berge, the financial wizard behind the Yves Saint-Laurent fashion empire, said he had always "campaigning against the privileges of money so that tickets would be inexpensive."

"Otherwise, what's the purpose of building a popular opera?" he was quoted as saying. The Opera Bastille, which seats 2,700 in its main auditorium, was conceived by President Francois Mitterrand to make culture more accessible to the masses and spark urban renewal in the eastern part of Paris.

Branco's daughter flees U.S. to avoid brother's trial

LOS ANGELES (R) — The 26-year-old daughter of reclusive film star Marlon Brando has fled to Tahiti to avoid testifying against her half-brother who is charged with murdering her boyfriend, a prosecution lawyer said Monday. Deputy District Attorney Steven Barshtup told reporters that Cheyenne Brando had refused to return from the Pacific island to give evidence against Christian Brando. Cheyenne was in her father's Hollywood mansion when police say Christian Brando, 32, shot and killed her boyfriend, Talitha Dag-Drollet, in a fit of anger. Defence attorneys have not disputed that Christian Brando shot Drollet, but claimed it was a tragic accident. Brando, they said, was drunk when he pulled the trigger during a violent argument with Drollet last month and did not mean to kill him. According to statements given to police, Cheyenne, who is five months pregnant with Drollet's child, was the subject of the fatal argument. She had told her half-brother that Drollet had been "slapping her about" despite her pregnancy. But in a statement to detectives, Marlon Brando, star of films including The Godfather and A Streetcar Named Desire, said his daughter was suffering from "psychological problems" and had made a number of unfounded allegations against family members. He said Cheyenne was undergoing psychiatric treatment.

Zhao adviser reportedly released from jail

HONG KONG (Agencies) — A key adviser to former Chinese Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang has been released from prison after an investigation of his role in the pro-democracy movement, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

Bao Tong, the former private secretary to Zhao who headed a think tank on restructuring China's political system, was released from maximum security Qincheng Prison last month and is now under house arrest in Peking, the English-language South China Morning Post reported.

The report, quoting unnamed sources in Peking, said authorities have yet to decide what to do with Bao.

Amnesty International reported that Bao was arrested on May 28, 1989, about one week before China's conservative leaders ordered the military to crush the pro-democracy movement.

Zhao, who was sympathetic to some of the demands of students protesting for greater freedom, was dismissed from all his party posts on June 24, 1989. He was accused of "supporting the turmoil," a reference to the protests, and of splitting the Communist Party.

Zhao is believed to be living under house arrest in central Peking. He has not been seen in public since last May.

Bao, director of the Research

Centre for Reform of the Political Structure under the party's Central Committee, reportedly acted as Zhao's liaison to students during the protests. One official evaluation of the protests reportedly labelled Bao and other intellectuals as "black hands" behind the movement.

But the newspaper reported that an investigation of Bao's activity during last year's protests had yielded no incriminating information, the newspaper reported. It claimed the failure to press charges against Bao was a setback for hardline Premier Li Peng.

Since late last year, China has announced the release of more than 800 people jailed for their participation in the crushed democracy movement.

Meanwhile the State Department estimated there still are 1,000 to 2,000 Chinese in prison after the crackdown on the pro-democracy movement.

U.S. officials have been telling the Chinese that "we hope the names of all those released will be made available, and that China will provide an accounting of all those who remain in detention," department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said Tuesday.

"Our best guess is that probably up to 1,000, perhaps 2,000, remain in prison, but I must caution you that we do not have accurate information," Tutwiler told reporters.

She noted the Chinese have officially declared that fewer than 400 people remain in detention, while Amnesty International, a human rights organisation, estimates that 650 are still in prison. Others have reported higher numbers of prisoners.

China has announced three releases of prisoners. Tutwiler said, one in January of 573 people, one in May of 211 and a third in June of 97.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Solomon testified before a congressional panel earlier this month that at least 2,000 remained in custody out of the 15,000 arrested in last summer's violent upheaval. The number of those killed has been estimated in the hundreds or thousands.

In a separate development, some Chinese were jubilant at the news of dissident Fang Lizhi's release into British exile while others saw his departure as a loss of face for China's leadership.

Fang and his wife, Li Shuxian, sheltered for a year in the U.S. embassy after the bloody crackdown on dissent last June.

Authorities had accused them of "counter-revolutionary crimes" and issued a warrant for their arrest.

The official media issued low-key announcements of the Monday departure of the nation's most celebrated dissident.